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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES[1]

SUMMARY

This report provides an account of the activities undertaken by my Office between January 2001 and April 2002. It describes major developments and challenges with respect to international protection, assistance activities and the search for durable solutions worldwide. It also covers a number of global themes, the financing of our activities, issues of oversight and accountability, as well as our cooperation within and beyond the United Nations system. This report is submitted in accordance with Article 11 of the Statute of my Office[2] which provides that the "High Commissioner should report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council".

[1] This is a preliminary edition of the report that will subsequently be issued as an official record of the General Assembly, fifty-seventh session
[2] General Assembly resolution 438 (V) of 14 December 1950

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List of Acronyms

ACABQ	United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
APC	Asia-Pacific Consultations
ARC	Action for the Rights of Children
CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
ECHA	Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HIWG	Humanitarian Issues Working Group
IAG	Inter-Africa Group
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee for the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGO	Inspector General's Office
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KFOR	Kosovo Force
MERCOSUR	Southern Cone Common Market
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MONUC	United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PARinAC	UNHCR/NGO Partnership in Action
PHARE	Poland/Hungary: Assistance for the Reconstruction of the Economy
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission to Sierra Leone
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSECOORD	Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

OVERVIEW

1. 2001 was an important milestone for my Office, and the first of my mandate as High Commissioner. Following the 50th anniversary of UNHCR's creation the preceding year, we celebrated 50 years of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Though drafted and signed in a very different geo-political context, this instrument together with its 1967 Protocol, has been and remains the steadfast bedrock of the international refugee protection regime.

2. In terms of global numbers of persons of concern to UNHCR, there was a slight reduction from 21.1 million in 2000 to 19.8 million at the end of 2001, due mainly to a net decrease in the number of internally displaced of concern to my Office. Persistent instability and strife have continued to cause population movements particularly in countries of Africa and parts of South America, but there were no major refugee emergencies comparable to the scale of those that occurred in the 1990s. UNHCR's emergency response capacity was nevertheless primed on several occasions in the course of the year, notably in West Africa early in 2001, in South-East Europe in the summer with prospects of major movements from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and in countries bordering Afghanistan in the autumn. In most of these cases, interventions at a political level caused events to take another course and the threat of large-scale outflows was generally averted.

3. The impact of the events of September 11 for the work of my Office has been considerable, and their full extent still cannot be measured. The military action and ensuing political developments within Afghanistan opened unexpected opportunities for the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees, particularly from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran where many have been leading a precarious existence, bordering on despair, for many years. On the negative side, however, these terrorist acts have fuelled further intolerance and distrust towards aliens including asylum-seekers and refugees. This poses and will continue to pose additional challenges to the work of ensuring their international protection.

4. The Global Consultations on International Protection launched in 2000 gave rise to a series of important events in the course of 2001, the most important being the Ministerial Meeting in December 2001, co-convened by the Government of Switzerland and UNHCR, attended by States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol. This meeting witnessed the adoption of a landmark Declaration reinforcing commitment to these instruments. The Global Consultations has been a unique consultative process, bringing together representatives of States from all regions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academics and refugees themselves. It is scheduled to conclude shortly and will generate an Agenda for Protection for the years to come. This process has been endorsed both by the Executive Committee at its fifty-second session[3] and by the General Assembly in its annual resolution on the work of my Office[4].

5. The rekindled interest in principles underlying international protection that has been sparked by the Global Consultations has been all the more significant at a time of major protection challenges. For several years now, governments have been increasingly concerned by mixed, irregular flows of migrants and asylum-seekers, and have applied various disincentives in an effort to ward off unwelcome arrivals. Traffickers and smugglers have thrived and multiplied, just as public opinion has grown more hostile. It

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[3] A/56/12/para.22
[4] A/RES/56/137

was against this background that in September 2001, the world witnessed a major incident of rescue at sea in the South Pacific, followed by lengthy transactions.

6. Another major protection challenge to my Office was to continue finding sustainable solutions to refugee problems. Poverty, lack of opportunity, insufficient resources, and protracted refugee situations, have more than ever made refugees vulnerable to unequal power relationships and abuse in refugee camps, as well as prone to becoming victims of fraud and corruption. Their situation of desperation and lack of solutions also fuels crime and violence. While the Office will continue to address these issues with practical, preventive and corrective actions, there is an urgent need to collectively address the underlying root causes. I will continue to highlight this to the international community.

7. "Protection is not protection if there are no solutions" was an essential part of my message last year to the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee[5], and has remained a guiding policy of my Office throughout this period. The actual numbers of refugees and internally displaced who returned in 2001 was relatively low (some 700,000). There were nevertheless several encouraging developments in the course of the year in Africa, South-East Europe, South-East Asia and more recently in Afghanistan, which hold prospects for more and larger returns in the foreseeable future. Increased efforts have also been made to address protracted refugee situations, notably in Africa, with sharper focus on measures to encourage self-reliance as a means towards local integration or reintegration upon return. In addressing both ECOSOC and the Third Committee of the General Assembly last year, I drew attention to the enormous productive potential of refugees and the contribution they can make to reconstruction and development activities.

8. One of my first priorities as High Commissioner was to undertake a three-pronged internal review of the organization to define its optimum profile and size, based on its fundamental mandate and purpose, and to analyse its funding basis. Much of this work was completed by May 2001, and resulted in painful budget and staff reductions accompanied by the closure of some field offices. While this action has helped sharpen our operational focus, the funding situation has remained precarious and unsatisfactory. It is both alarming and paradoxical that, with dwindling resources, expectations and demands on UNHCR have continued to grow.

[5] A/AC.96/959,Annex II

I. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

A. Introduction

9. Providing international protection to refugees and other persons of concern, and seeking permanent solutions to their problems are UNHCR's primary functions under its Statute[6]. The activities of the Office, defined as non-political, humanitarian and social, have been further reinforced and guided by subsequent General Assembly resolutions, conclusions and decisions of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. They are carried out within a framework comprising international refugee, human rights and humanitarian laws, and internationally accepted standards for the treatment of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.

10. International protection begins with securing admission, asylum, and respect for basic human rights, including the principle of *non-refoulement*, without which the physical safety or even survival of the refugee is in jeopardy. It ends only with the attainment of a sustainable solution to their situation, ideally through the restoration of protection by the refugee's own country. The work of protecting refugees includes: promoting the conclusion of international conventions for the protection of refugees at the global and regional level and supervising their application; promoting legislation and other measures at national or regional level to ensure that refugees are identified and accorded an appropriate status and standard of treatment in their countries of asylum; and ensuring, with and through the national authorities, the safety and well-being of specific refugee groups and individuals in asylum countries. Protection also entails meeting the special needs of refugee women and of children, especially those separated from their families.

11. UNHCR's protection activities are conducted in close cooperation with States who have the primary responsibility for ensuring the respect of the fundamental rights of everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction. UNHCR's role thus involves ensuring that governments take the necessary action to protect all refugees within their territory, as well as persons seeking admission at their borders who may be refugees.

12. Over the past decade, UNHCR has faced considerable additional challenges in its protection work. States have asked the organization to take on much wider responsibilities, ranging from providing humanitarian assistance in war zones to protecting certain groups of internally displaced persons, and assisting returnees in countries of origin. However, funding has not been commensurate with these demands, leading to the closure last year of some offices and the curtailing of a number of programmes and operations. The Office also had to contend with a restrictive application of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in some countries, including diverging interpretations of the Convention's provisions and a waning quality of asylum offered worldwide. The result was that in some situations, the Convention's provisions were more respected in their breach than their adherence. These breaches ranged from situations of *refoulement* or return, where borders were closed to many, to direct violence and xenophobia against refugees and failure to uphold their fundamental rights.

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[6] General Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950

B. Main protection developments and activities

i) 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees

13. The anniversary of the 1951 Convention was a significant event, not least because of the challenges faced by States seeking to respond effectively to contemporary displacement situations. Recurring cycles of violence and systematic human rights violations in many part of the world, the changing nature of armed conflict and of patterns of displacement, and serious apprehensions about "uncontrolled" migration in an era of globalization, are increasingly part of the environment in which refugee protection has to be realized. Trafficking and smuggling of people, abuse of asylum procedures and difficulties in dealing with unsuccessful asylum-seekers are additional compounding factors. Countries of asylum in many parts of the world are concerned about the failure to resolve certain long-standing refugee problems, urban refugee issues and irregular migration, and about a perceived imbalance in burden and responsibility-sharing.

14. The *Note on International Protection*[7] presented at last year's session of the Executive Committee focused on the 1951 Convention itself and addressed in some detail the practical application of key areas and standards. This review was structured around eight main themes: security; respect for civil and political rights; respect for economic, social and cultural rights; protection of the particularly vulnerable; responsibilities of refugees; identifying refugees; broadening the reach of the Convention; and solutions. It concluded by setting out the objectives of the Global Consultations process which are presented below.

ii) Global Consultations on International Protection

15. The Global Consultations on International Protection launched in 2000 have made a major contribution both to revitalizing the framework for refugee protection established by the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and to re-equipping States to address current humanitarian challenges in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation. The Global Consultations proceeded along three parallel tracks of which the 'first track' consisted of a series of preparatory meetings culminating in the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties in December 2001. While commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Convention, it also aimed to strengthen States' commitment to implement the Convention and 1967 Protocol fully and effectively, elicit recognition of their enduring importance as the primary refugee protection instruments and encourage additional accessions or the withdrawal of reservations. This aim was reached through the adoption of a landmark Declaration of all States Parties, enshrining this commitment.

16. The 'second track' provided a forum to take stock of developments in refugee law and to examine a number of emerging legal issues. Four expert roundtable discussions covered the topics of: cessation and exclusion; the principle of *non-refoulement* and UNHCR's supervisory responsibility; membership of a particular social group; gender-related persecution; internal protection/relocation/flight alternative; illegal entry; and family unity. The conclusions of the roundtables and respective background papers will be published by UNHCR in 2002, and will assist in updating UNHCR's guidelines on these issues by way of complement to the *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status*.

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[7] A/AC.96/951

17. The 'third track' was structured around a number of protection policy matters, including issues not adequately covered by the Convention. The aim was to foster understanding of protection challenges and promote cooperation to address them; to identify and devise practical responses to protection problems; and to develop new approaches, tools and standards for strengthening refugee protection. Four broad themes were selected for discussion: 1) protection of refugees in mass influx situations; 2) protection of refugees in the context of individual asylum systems; 3) the search for protection-based solutions (focusing on voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement); and 4) protection of refugee women and refugee children. The first two of these themes were addressed at meetings held in March, June and September 2001. Consultations on the third and fourth themes are scheduled for May 2002. Seven regional meetings on related topics were also organised to ensure a global outreach and capture different national and regional perspectives of governments, regional organizations, NGOs, and other experts, as well as those of refugees themselves.

18. The Global Consultations will conclude in 2002. A convergence of views deriving from the entire process will form the basis of an *Agenda for Protection* as a framework and *modus operandi* for States, UNHCR, NGOs and other protection partners in the coming years.

iii) Resettlement

19. The resettlement of refugees has continued to occupy an important place within UNHCR's global protection strategy, both as a durable solution and as a means of protecting individual refugees whose safety is in jeopardy. Cooperation and consultation with resettlement countries and with NGOs has continued to be an essential feature of this work notably through the Working Group on Resettlement, and Annual Tripartite Consultation mechanisms, aimed at harmonizing the policies of resettlement countries with those of UNHCR. Continued efforts have been deployed to expand the resettlement base, to encourage receiving countries to diversify their resettlement intake, increase the level of their quotas, and allow for flexible allocation of their quotas by region, country or populations.

20. The development of an integration initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of both traditional and emerging resettlement countries has been an important feature of these efforts. An International Conference on the Reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees was held in Sweden in April 2001, with the full participation emerging resettlement countries. Since 1996 the base of resettlement countries has increased from 10 countries to 23 in 2001. This has involved intensive capacity-building initiatives, combined with case selection. Despite resource limitations, these developments were given a high priority as the European Commission is preparing to sponsor research on the feasibility of a European Union resettlement programme. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year, heightened security concerns that arose following the terrorist attacks of September 11, restricted refugee admissions in some major resettlement countries and cast doubts over levels that could be expected.

21. In order to maintain resettlement activities in spite of continuing constraints, UNHCR has expanded its partnership with the International Catholic Migration Commission in implementing the Resettlement Deployment Scheme and has secured additional human resources through deployment and temporary assistance arrangements. Well-established donor relations with resettlement countries also resulted in valuable contributions in the form of expertise. Improving accountability will, however, be essential to

maintaining the integrity of resettlement as a tool of protection and a durable solution.

22. Refugee status and resettlement places are valuable commodities, particularly in countries with acute poverty, where the temptation to make money by whatever means is strong. This makes the resettlement process quite vulnerable to abuse. It becomes increasingly so the more restricted the access, and the smaller the resettlement quotas and opportunities. Efforts are underway to strengthen accountability and management controls as well as internal oversight and monitoring of resettlement activities. The issues of accountability and fraud awareness are being incorporated into existing training and induction programmes on resettlement.

iv) Statelessness

23. The campaign undertaken by UNHCR to increase accessions to the statelessness Conventions had good results. As of 2001, ten new States became Parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and six to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, bringing the totals to 53 and 25 respectively. Extensive technical advice was provided by UNHCR on measures to avoid statelessness and deal with such cases. This expertise was requested in relation to the laws and practices of 141 States, with direct participation in drafting laws in 51 of these countries.

C. Refugee women and gender equality

24. In 2001, UNHCR's main objective in this area was to assess progress achieved in advancing the rights of refugee women and in promoting gender equality, with a view to redefining a strategy for the future, based on lessons learned and the views of refugees themselves. Other objectives included: developing and improving multi-sectoral activities to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; empowering refugee and returnee women as peace-builders; promoting the rights and equality of women; strengthening the protection of women through training of both staff and refugees; and disseminating good practices.

25. A Dialogue, involving women of concern to UNHCR from over 20 locations across the world, was launched in spring 2001, culminating in an international meeting in Geneva in June, hosted by UNHCR together with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. 50 refugee women shared their experiences, offered testimonies and commented on the response offered by UNHCR and other partners to their concerns. This initiative led to five specific commitments by UNHCR: (i) to ensure that women participate in all refugee management and leadership committees in urban, rural and camp settings, including in return areas; (ii) to register male and female refugees individually and provide individual documentation; (iii) to develop integrated country-level strategies to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; (iv) to promote direct participation of refugee women in both food and non-food management and distribution; (v) to provide sanitary materials to all women and girls as standard UNHCR assistance practice.

26. In March 2001, UNHCR hosted an Inter-agency Lessons Learned Conference on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Refugee Situations. Refugee women, other UN agencies, NGOs and government partners joined UNHCR at this event to identify where progress had been made in developing a multi-sectoral approach; to assess how and where methodologies could be replicated; and to analyse gaps and chart the way forward. While there were clearly many such gaps, the conference analysed a number of

positive activities which could be replicated as models for further development elsewhere. UNHCR's *Guidelines on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence* are in the process of being updated following this event.

27. At field level, various activities have been undertaken to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. In Guinea, refugee men formed the Men's Association for Gender Equality to promote a culture of non-violence against women. In Kenya in November 2001, participants at a UNHCR/NGO consultative strategy development meeting formulated recommendations and interventions to address sexual and gender-based violence issues. In Sierra Leone, UNHCR supported the strengthening of a network of local women in order to develop and implement sexual and gender-based projects.

28. Other UNHCR initiatives to mainstream gender equality included incorporating the experience of refugee women in various peace process developments in both East and West Africa. One notable example was the participation of several refugee women in the Mano River Union peace delegations that visited Guinea and Sierra Leone. Support for training of refugee women in negotiation and conflict resolution skills was provided in Kenya, Uganda, Guinea and Liberia, and UNHCR also funded the participation of refugee women at a Leadership for Peace Building training in Liberia.

29. The deployment of gender awareness staff with emergency response teams sent to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan in 2001 was well appreciated and will become common practice for future emergency deployments. Another element of the mainstreaming process in 2001 was to develop gender training activities and tools for both refugees and UNHCR staff at all levels of involvement. UNHCR remained keenly aware of the need to continue to build a shared vision and understanding of gender equality mainstreaming, through a participatory process using different mechanisms to explain the relevance of the concept and find ways of applying them in protection and assistance activities.

D. Refugee children including adolescents

30. The United Nations Special Session on Children that took place in early May 2002 has served to focus the attention of the world on the special needs and rights of children, particularly those whose lives are threatened by poverty and disease. This event, in which UNHCR took an active part, obtained a commitment from States to address their plight. Refugee children and adolescents, numbering an estimated 7.7 million, are among the most vulnerable of all. Key concerns for UNHCR have continued to be issues of separation, exploitation and sexual abuse as well as HIV/AIDS, military recruitment, access to education and the specific needs of adolescents.

31. In most refugee and returnee situations, children face an increased risk of sexual abuse and violence because of their age and the social disruption surrounding them. While both boys and girls are at risk, girls are usually the principal targets. During October and November 2001, a joint assessment mission by UNHCR/Save the Children (UK) visited West Africa to look into the issue. The aim was to help UNHCR and child protection agencies to strengthen their programmes as well as to provide important material for advocacy purposes in national and international fora, including the Yokohama conference on child sexual exploitation which took place in December 2001. A draft summary of these findings reported allegations of sexual exploitation of refugee children, noting that some workers of national and international

NGOs and United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, could be involved. The Office of the Internal Oversight Service was immediately asked to undertake an investigation. At the time of writing, indications were that the scope of allegations of these despicable practices was considerably less widespread than initially thought. None of the allegations had so far been proven. This by no means diminishes the importance of addressing the issue. One case is one too many, and the rights of refugee girls and women must be protected. A comprehensive action plan was put in place by UNHCR to address programme, management and resource issues, as well as work on an effective code of conduct based on the policy of "zero tolerance", both in the region and elsewhere, are ongoing. Extensive action is also being taken at inter-agency level. Meanwhile, an independent evaluation on "Meeting the Rights and Protection Needs of Refugee Children" has been published. An in-house mechanism will review the operationalization of its recommendations, which concur with the general policy recommendations of the above draft joint assessment report.

32. The issue of unaccompanied and separated children has continued to be a priority for UNHCR. A report on unaccompanied minors was presented to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly and was also the subject of a resolution[8]. The Separated Children in Europe Programme has continued to seek to develop shared policy and commitment to best practice at both national and European levels. This action is particularly important in countries of Eastern Europe where the problem of children asylum-seekers has become more acute. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Separated Children has been working on Guiding Principles on Separated and Unaccompanied Children to foster a common policy between UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC, Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee and World Vision.

33. Under the Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) training and capacity-building continued to be a major platform for mobilizing inter-agency collaboration, notably the regional experts' meeting on a legal framework for refugee and asylum-seeking children in Eastern Europe. The production of resource materials on child protection has continued. By the end of the year, ten resource packs including one on child soldiers were available through UNHCR's website.

34. During 2001, UNHCR and its partners also expanded the peace education programme, aimed at developing skills and attitudes conducive to peaceful and constructive behaviour by incorporating peace education into refugee assistance programmes. The programme was implemented in Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Liberia. Training and design planning workshops were also conducted in Eritrea, Ethiopia, north-west Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania. Some 200,000 school-going children and many others in non-formal education have been receiving peace education as part of their learning.

II. PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS BY REGION

35. This chapter provides a brief overview of UNHCR's activities on a regional basis. Details of populations of concern as well as expenditure by type of assistance can be found in Tables 1 and 3, while Table 4 provides a list of top refugee-hosting countries. Full explanations of UNHCR's programmes in 2001 are available in its Global Report, available on the UNHCR website[9].

[8] A/RES/56/136
[9] www.unhcr.ch/prexcom/

36. Globally, in 2001 UNHCR cared for an estimated 19.8 million asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to the Office in almost 160 countries at the end of 2001. The region of South-West Asia hosted the largest refugee population (40 per cent), followed by Africa (26 per cent) and Europe (17 per cent). The largest groups of prima facie refugee arrivals in 2001 were: Afghans arriving in Pakistan (200,000); refugees from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who entered the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (93,000); and refugees from the Central African Republic who sought asylum in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (27,000). The most significant voluntary repatriation movements in 2001 were those of refugees returning to Sierra Leone (92,000), to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (90,000), Somalia (51,000), Eritrea (33,000) and Burundi (28,000).In 2001, UNHCR facilitated the resettlement of some 33,400 refugees from 75 first asylum countries to 23 countries of permanent residence. The largest number of refugees was resettled from Kenya (9,400), Turkey (2,750), Pakistan (2,670), Egypt (2,030) and Jordan (1,900).

A. Africa

37. In 2001, the refugee population in Africa fell by almost 10 per cent to reach 3.1 million at the end of the year. During the year, the region experienced almost 190,000 *prima facie* refugee arrivals, whereas 260,000 refugees returned home. Another 14,500 refugees were resettled by UNHCR to countries of permanent residence. The largest refugee populations in Africa are hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania (670,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (360,000) and the Sudan (350,000). The largest countries of origin of refugees are Burundi (550,000), Sudan (490,000) and Angola (470,000). The main refugee returns in Africa during 2001 concerned Sierra Leoneans repatriating from Guinea (77,300), Somalis repatriating from Ethiopia (50,200), Eritreans repatriating from Sudan (32,700) and Burundi refugees returning from the United Republic of Tanzania (27,600).

i) West and Central Africa

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	-
Care and maintenance:	38,835,500
Voluntary repatriation:	20,755,400
Local settlement:	8,818,900
Resettlement:	20,000
Programme support:	16,769,300
Overall total:	**85,199,100**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	570,074
Asylum-seekers:	21,110
Returned refugees:	101,092
Internally displaced:	196,116
Returned internally displaced:	-
Various other groups:	-
Total population of concern:	**888,392**

38. In 2001, UNHCR's activities in the West Africa region covered 21 countries. The main focus was on the Mano River basin area where there was a sign of hope with the start of repatriation movements to Sierra Leone as prospects of peace and return to stability gathered momentum. In other countries, UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance to the refugee and displaced populations under its care.

39. Despite security concerns in the Mano River basin countries (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia) throughout 2001, some 92,000 Sierra Leonean refugees were able to repatriate from Guinea and Liberia to relative safety inside Sierra Leone. The signing of a joint communiqué by the Government of Sierra Leone, the Civil Defence, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), improved prospects of further

accelerating voluntary repatriation to Sierra Leone and enabled some 28,100 returnees to proceed from temporary settlements to their places of origin. However, essential elements of social infrastructure have been destroyed and massive reconstruction is required. Inside Guinea, following the closure of offices in the areas where access was restricted under United Nations Security Phase IV, UNHCR relocated some 55,000 Sierra Leonean refugees from border areas to camps in Albadaria and Dabola districts. The teams in Guinea had to manage staff security in precarious conditions, while responding to the protection and assistance needs of thousands of dispersed refugees in flight. In Liberia, despite positive developments with the re-opening of its borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone in September 2001, the security situation has since deteriorated even further, resulting in significant displacement and refugee flows into Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

40. In other countries in the sub-region, UNHCR repatriated the remaining population of Chadian refugees in mid-August 2001. UNHCR has thus assisted the return of more than 8,000 Chadian refugees, mainly from Cameroon and the Central African Republic, since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation operation in 1999. In Gabon, the newly-formed National Commission for Refugees conducted its first refugee status determination activities for individual asylum-seekers. A Tripartite Agreement was signed in September 2001 by the Governments of the Republic of the Congo and Gabon, and UNHCR, on the voluntary repatriation of refugees to the Republic of the Congo. The security situation in the Central African Republic has remained highly volatile in the aftermath of the failed coup d'état in May 2001, and widespread insecurity continued to jeopardize humanitarian activities for the 50,000 refugees who live there. In 2001, 26,500 refugees from the Central African Republic arrived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and another 3,000 Central African Republic nationals applied for asylum in the Republic of the Congo (1,600), the Americas (450) and France (400). The sense of insecurity in the country was aggravated by the killing of a United Nations Field Safety Officer in Bangui in July.

41. The publication in February 2002 of a draft report by a joint UNHCR/Save the Children (United Kingdom) mission alleging cases of exploitation and sexual abuse of refugee children in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, sent waves of shock and indignation throughout the humanitarian spectrum. UNHCR has embarked upon a number of actions both internally and externally, drawing partner agencies and donors into consultations on how to deal with such intolerable practices and build safeguards for ensuring that refugees, returnees and other vulnerable persons of concern to the Office are protected from these risks.

42. As a result of prioritization decisions in 2001, seven UNHCR offices were closed in the region and the remaining ten offices in neighbouring countries assigned to cover the residual programmes through a 'cluster' approach. This was designed to consolidate and harmonize assistance programmes throughout the region, and to pursue voluntary repatriation operations from a regional perspective, bringing a more comprehensive and integrated approach to refugee and returnee matters. Increased cooperation will be developed with sub-regional organisations such as the African Development Bank, the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations West Africa Office established in Dakar in early 2002. Following new developments in the region, the decision to close the Gambia and Cameroon offices is now being reviewed.

ii) East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	1,275,400
Care and maintenance:	91,979,900
Voluntary repatriation:	42,743,100
Local settlement:	19,166,200
Resettlement:	391,500
Programme support:	30,329,300
Overall total:	**185,885,400**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	2,178,186
Asylum-seekers:	48,178
Returned refugees:	152,580
Internally displaced:	23,458
Returned internally displaced:	42,000
Various other groups:	1,420
Total population of concern:	**2,445,822**

East and Horn of Africa

43. In 2001, 99,000 refugees returned to their country of origin, primarily to: Somalia (51,300), Eritrea (33,000) and Sudan (5,200). Some 11,000 refugees with concerns about security and integration in their countries of asylum were helped to resettle in a third country. When neither of these solutions could be achieved, refugees continued to receive protection and assistance from UNHCR in the countries of asylum. These interventions were possible only with the cooperation and support of host and recipient governments, regional organizations and other partners. The success of the Tripartite Repatriation Commission for the Eritrean refugees enabled Sudan, Eritrea and UNHCR to make significant progress in the face of challenging circumstances, including inadequate human resources.

44. During the reporting period, relations between countries in the East and Horn of Africa region remained relatively stable, and progress was made towards the resolution of inter-state conflicts. Following the signature of a peace agreement in December 2000, Eritrea and Ethiopia agreed to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force and the establishment of a Temporary Security Zone in the first half of 2001. Relations between UNHCR and the Government of Eritrea were strengthened, not only as a consequence of the Office's involvement with returnees and refugees in the country, but also as a result of UNHCR's role in the inter-agency response to the IDP crisis in 2000-2001. In its efforts to get reintegration assistance projects implemented in returnee areas as quickly as possible, UNHCR led the way amongst agencies in decentralizing assistance from central to regional authorities. However, it became clear in 2001 that UNHCR's exit strategy for Eritrea will depend upon the effective engagement of development agencies. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Uganda at the end of 2001 raised hopes of defusing flash points along their common border and saw the beginning of some return movements of Ugandan refugees from Sudan. Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea also engaged in diplomacy to improve co-operation in various spheres. UNHCR continued to collaborate with regional bodies in the common search for solutions to the conflicts and the problems that they generate in this part of the world.

45. In Somalia, the Arta Peace Conference initially raised hopes for a political solution. However, the formation of the Transitional National Government and the election of a President have not yet resulted in consolidated peace. Despite the continuing voluntary repatriation to north-west Somalia, there are still some 230,000 Somali refugees in refugee camps in East Africa and the Horn. In addition, some 300,000 Sudanese refugees remain in camps in the region. The protracted conflict in Sudan persisted, with shifting military and political alliances among the key players. Despite several political initiatives, including that of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), prospects for a peaceful resolution of the

conflict and repatriation in the immediate future are doubtful. There have, nevertheless, been significant operational achievements in 2001. The successful repatriation of refugees from the Sudan to Eritrea, and from Ethiopia to north-west Somalia, can be taken as positive signs for the future. Following these operations, UNHCR was able to close some refugee camps.

46. In protracted refugee situations where neither repatriation nor local integration is likely in the immediate future, resettlement remains an important protection tool for UNHCR in its efforts to find durable solutions for certain groups or individual refugees. Strict application of established guidelines and sufficient control and oversight are necessary to maintain and enhance the integrity of the selection process. This includes ensuring adequate staffing levels to deal with the often complex issues and pressures exerted by different parties. In 2001, irregularities that came to light in the resettlement programme in Kenya were investigated, and a review of all UNHCR's resettlement programmes in Africa was initiated, in order to minimize the risk of fraud and corruption.

47. In most countries of the region, security in and around the camps remained a concern, as both refugees and humanitarian workers were on constant alert. Additional field-based Staff Safety Advisor and Staff Welfare Officer positions were created in Africa in 2001 to respond to the needs of colleagues working in remote and insecure areas.

Great Lakes

48. Throughout the year the Great Lakes region still frequently required emergency assistance responses with few opportunities for repatriation owing to the prevailing security situation. Voluntary repatriation was not rendered possible to the extent hoped for and UNHCR continued to assure basic assistance. The safety of humanitarian workers remained a major preoccupation in the Great Lakes region where the security situation necessitated continual monitoring and assessment, and the updating of appropriate emergency evacuation measures. The precarious conditions were tragically highlighted by the shooting of a UNHCR driver in Kimpese in the south-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo last March, and the assassination of six ICRC delegates in May 2001 in Ituri in the north-east of the country. UNHCR continued to work closely with the United Nations Security Coordinator on both staff and refugee safety and security matters.

49. The situation in Burundi remained too volatile for major sustained voluntary repatriation of the 550,000 Burundi refugees in exile to take place. Despite the setting up of a transitional government on 1 November 2001 following the Arusha peace process, confrontations between military and rebel groups have continued. UNHCR's access to populations of concern in the country was often blocked by sporadic outbreaks of violence. Consequently, by the end of 2001, only 28,000 Burundi refugees had spontaneously returned.

50. In the United Republic of Tanzania, there were signs of declining public and political tolerance of refugees, particularly amongst impoverished local communities in the hosting regions. Security in and around the camps continued to cause concern, and despite attempts to reduce the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence against women in camps, the problems persisted, albeit on a reduced scale. UNHCR expressed concern over a suggestion that the Government was considering the idea of transferring refugees to 'safe havens' in Burundi; however, the government authorities provided assurances that such action would not be taken, nor would refugees be forcibly repatriated. Meanwhile, the conflicts in countries of the Great

Lakes region continued to cause refugees to cross into the United Republic of Tanzania and, by the end of the year, there were 670,000 refugees in the country, of whom 500,000 are being assisted by UNHCR.

51. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, considerable hope emerged early in 2001 for progress towards peace and reconciliation. Developments in the course of the year included the partial withdrawal of foreign armies, political liberalization, the facilitation of access by humanitarian agencies to the interior of the country, the progressive deployment of the United Nations Observers Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and moves towards establishing dialogue between warring factions. However, lack of clear developments in the peace process and continuing political and military problems have again prevented voluntary repatriation, leaving UNHCR with the ongoing challenge of upholding its mandated responsibility to maintain minimum standards of protection and assistance in the face of shrinking financial, material and human resources.

52. Further instability in the Central African Republic in May 2001 resulted in some 27,000 refugees and significant numbers of military personnel fleeing to Equateur province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, talks between UNHCR and the Government of the Central African Republic have given hope that significant voluntary repatriation could take place in 2002.

53. The Republic of the Congo continued to progress towards post-conflict social rehabilitation and established an electoral schedule for the first half of 2002. As a consequence, the refugees remaining in neighbouring countries continued to return throughout the year. A Tripartite Agreement was signed by the Governments of Gabon and the Republic of the Congo and UNHCR for the repatriation of Congolese refugees from Gabon. The voluntary repatriation operation started towards the end of the year although on a modest scale.

54. In Rwanda, there was some progress towards democratization, decentralization, reconciliation and development of the rule of law. The national police force was restructured and trained in human rights. However, the consolidation of peace in the country will depend on further significant development of key sectors such as health, economy, eduction, land reform, environmental management and the judicial system. In 2001, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 21,000 Rwandan refugees. Despite security incidents in May 2001 which temporarily interrupted the return movement, it is anticipated that the target figure of 25,000 returns should be reached in 2002.

iii) Southern Africa

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	5,226,400
Care and maintenance:	8,579,200
Voluntary repatriation:	37,900
Local settlement:	13,196,700
Resettlement:	52,800
Programme support:	8,411,200
Overall total:	**35,504,200**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	365,397
Asylum-seekers:	21,798
Returned refugees:	13,117
Internally displaced:	202,000
Returned internally displaced:	-
Various other groups:	-
Total population of concern:	**602,312**

55. During 2001, the 27-year civil war in Angola and the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to profoundly affect the entire Southern African region, especially Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Angola, fighting intensified and at the beginning of the year, the government forces regained control of some of the eastern part of the country which at one time had been under the control of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Thousands of Angolans sought asylum in neighbouring countries, mainly in Zambia (21,500), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (19,000) and Namibia (4,300). Angola was the scene of the region's worst internal displacement. In 2001, UNHCR assisted 202,000 people who had been uprooted from their homes. UNHCR coordinated efforts with other United Nations agencies and NGOs to help the Government and civil society meet their obligations and responsibilities towards IDPs; however the shortage of suitable land for cultivation is a serious obstacle to self-reliance. Nevertheless, despite renewed displacements during the year, UNHCR's programme made considerable progress, and assistance to refugees reached acceptable levels. The signature of a cease-fire between the Government of Angola and UNITA greatly improved prospects for peace.

56. UNHCR's endeavours to find lasting solutions for refugees in Southern Africa, mainly through voluntary repatriation and resettlement, were limited to small numbers, as there were no mass repatriation movements of refugees to their home countries. Concerted efforts were also made to develop self-sufficiency projects in various areas. In Malawi, the Office provided land and loans to initiate income-generating agricultural activities. In the Kingdom of Swaziland, animal husbandry and agricultural activities were initiated under a microcredit scheme.

57. UNHCR worked with the Government of South Africa to clear a backlog of asylum applications: 8,530 out of 23,000 applications reviewed were approved. In South Africa, refugees tend to stay for relatively long periods, and there have been growing signs of public intolerance towards refugees and asylum-seekers. Nationwide public awareness activities were pursued in an attempt to counter this trend. In view of ongoing social and political tension in Zimbabwe, UNHCR met with the Governments of Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia to prepare a contingency plan and stockpiles of emergency shelter equipment in case of a large exodus. At the end of the year, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe were hosting relatively small numbers of refugees, however in the course of 2001, there was a notable increase in arrivals from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

58. Zambia's open-door policies on asylum were complemented by full cooperation with the refugee programme. However, continuing conflicts in 2001 triggered new refugee flows from Angola (21,500) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11,600). The government-driven national development initiative was linked to the refugee relief programme with support from UNHCR, NGO partners, UNOPS and sister United Nations agencies. UNHCR supported NGO partners with training, operational equipment and vehicles and refugee security in the camps was maintained by the Government. Should peace be consolidated in Angola, preparatory work will be needed to manage large-scale voluntary repatriation.

59. UNHCR's mandate remained far from easy to fulfil in this region, particularly in the face of funding shortfall which affected material assistance and the number of staff available to protect and monitor refugees and asylum-seekers. One of the biggest challenges is how to sustain the institution of asylum in the face of the continuing lack of solutions for dealing with the conflicts that generate refugee situations and impede repatriation.

B. The Americas and the Caribbean

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	55,000
Care and maintenance:	522,800
Voluntary repatriation:	150,300
Local settlement:	13,190,000
Resettlement:	-
Programme support:	8,654,700
Overall total:	**22,572,800**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	681,083
Asylum-seekers:	449,559
Returned refugees:	194
Internally displaced:	720,000
Returned internally displaced:	-
Various other groups:	-
Total population of concern:	**1,850,836**

i) Central and South America

60. The protection needs of increasing numbers of persons affected by almost four decades of armed conflict in Colombia characterized by assassinations, kidnappings and forced displacement, have remained UNHCR's prime focus in the region. IDP leaders and human rights workers were at particular risk. The failure of peace talks and renewed escalation of hostilities affected some 700,000 Colombians, a high percentage of whom were indigenous and Afro-Colombians. The neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama, affected by cross-border movements of displaced persons, have signed tripartite agreements to facilitate the repatriation of Colombian refugees whenever possible. However, voluntary returnee numbers have remained small.

61. In Colombia, UNHCR continued to reinforce the response of national institutions that address internal displacement in the country. Throughout the year, such work was carried out in partnership with 14 Colombian NGOs and with local authorities, in order to help civil society increase its role in protecting and finding solutions for IDPs. This included support for the establishment of IDP associations with equal representation of women, and the promotion of education for IDP children both in receiving and returning communities. The visit of the Chairman of UNHCR's Executive Committee to Colombia and Venezuela, in February 2002, was indicative of the importance attached to the IDP programme in this region.

62. Working closely with OCHA and other members of the United Nations Thematic Group on Displacement in Colombia (GTD), UNHCR coordinated the Humanitarian Plan of Action finalized in June 2002 which will set priorities for United Nations inteventions on behalf of IDPs during the coming two years. In Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, contingency plans were established, emergency preparedness measures include stockpiling of items and standby arrangements with international organizations for rapid deployment of qualified staff to the relevant border areas in case of a large influx. In Venezuela, the opening of a UNHCR office in San Cristobal, in August 2001, and the adoption of the law on refugees in October 2001 should bring greater protection for Colombian asylum-seekers once refugee status determination procedures are established by the Government of Venezuela. Nevertheless, border monitoring still requires more attention so that arrivals and returns are documented systematically and protection provided.

63. Elsewhere in South America, UNHCR has continued to build and strengthen national constituencies in order to progressively hand over responsibility for refugee protection and local integration to national entities. UNHCR's efforts to assist governments to incorporate norms and principles of international law into national legislation and monitor their implementation progressed, and the expansion of the role played by civil society in refugee

assistance was a cause for considerable satisfaction. The recently created national association, *Argentina con ACNUR* (ARCA) continued to play a key supporting role in advocacy and public awareness campaigns. Both Brazil and Chile received refugees from outside the sub-region for resettlement, demonstrating their commitment to international solidarity and burden-sharing. UNHCR worked together with official authorities and NGO partners to assist these countries build their national resettlement capacity.

64. After 11 September 2001, asylum-seekers in the region were affected by stricter immigration controls as a consequence of heightened security concerns in the so-called "triple frontier" area abutting Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. UNHCR continued to press for harmonized regional refugee legislation and procedures through participation in meetings of Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries.

65. The annual numbers of asylum applications lodged by Colombian nationals increased by 134 per cent to reach 26,400. UNHCR worked with NGO and governmental institutions to strengthen their capacity to protect and assist asylum-seekers and refugees in different countries across the region. Local integration as a durable solution was encouraged for long-staying refugees through naturalisation or regularisation of their migration status.

66. In Ecuador and Costa Rica, refugee status determination projects have succeeded in reducing backlogs and several Central American countries have or are contemplating the passing of implementing legislation. Following accession to the 1951 Convention in 2000, Mexico adopted legislation and established an eligibility commission. In 2001, Mexico granted naturalisation to over 3,000 Guatemalans, while an additional 4,000 are expected to benefit from similar action in the next two years. Mexico, also donated some 1,000 land titles. Guatemala adopted implementing legislation in October 2001 and established an eligibility commission the following month. UNHCR continued to conduct refugee status determination while training government personnel. Guatemala, in July, and Uruguay, in September 2001, acceded to the 1961 Statelessness Convention. In Honduras and Nicaragua, a chapter on refugees was included in a draft migration law for consideration by Congress. In El Salvador a draft refugee law is under discussion. In January 2002, Belize reconvened its eligibility committee after a four-year suspension.

67. In October 2001, concerned by the increasing number of Colombians arriving in the country, the Government of Costa Rica adopted a new decree on asylum procedures. To assist the Migration Department for Refugees, which was overwhelmed by the sudden influx, a UNHCR emergency refugee status determination team helped resolve the backlog of asylum claims. A total of 998 asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica received installation and subsistence support. UNHCR also hired psychological support to treat numerous cases of trauma or torture, particularly amongst Colombians.

ii) North America and the Caribbean

68. Since the 11 September events, attitudes towards asylum-seekers and refugees in the United States of America and in Canada have tended to favour greater restrictions and controls. Of utmost concern to UNHCR was the suspension of the United States resettlement programme as a result of security concerns. Only about 800 out of 14,000 expected refugees were admitted for resettlement in the last quarter of the year. When resettlement resumed in December, it progressed at a slower pace. Over 20,000 approved resettlement cases ready to travel were put on hold. In order to overcome some of the challenges, UNHCR engaged in a range of public and government-

level activities to raise awareness and support. The Office inspected 25 refugee detention facilities, more than twice as many as in any previous year. Standard procedures for access to detention facilities were also negotiated with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

69. In Canada, the number of resettled refugees in 2001 (12,250) was only slightly below the 2000 level(13,520). Public debate about asylum issues, in particular the high percentage of asylum-seekers who enter Canada through the United States having decided not to make their claim in the United States, prompted renewed negotiation of a safe third country agreement between the United States and Canada, overseas interception and the imposition of new visa requirements for citizens of leading asylum-seeker countries. UNHCR pursued work with NGO and government partners on separated children seeking asylum in Canada, and published a report with recommendations for improved practices.

70. In the Caribbean, UNHCR's efforts to secure accession to the refugee and stateless conventions received a boost when the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention in February 2002. UNHCR increased its monitoring of key refugee-receiving countries, including the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and Jamaica, and worked to build up asylum systems in the region. Training was provided in Jamaica on refugee status determination, legislation to implement international refugee conventions and international refugee law. At the end of the year, a Caribbean Regional Conference on Refugee Protection was held in Miami, bringing together participants from within and outside the governments of 11 Caribbean States. This gathering revived interest in accession to international refugee conventions, the building of legislative mechanisms for the execution of state obligations under international refugee law and the establishment of procedures for refugee status determination.

C. Asia and the Pacific

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	744,700
Care and maintenance:	14,076,000
Voluntary repatriation:	20,106,800
Local settlement:	1,982,600
Resettlement:	-
Programme support:	15,352,700
Overall total:	**52,262,800**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	938,818
Asylum-seekers:	19,225
Returned refugees:	18,481
Internally displaced:	683,286
Returned internally displaced:	-
Various other groups:	2,356
Total population of concern:	**1,662,166**

i) South Asia

71. The long-standing and bitter armed conflict in Sri Lanka has resulted in the displacement of an estimated 700,000 within the country and 64,000 refugees in camps in southern India. A major breakthrough occurred late in 2001 with peace initiatives by the new Government, building on an earlier initiative by Norway to facilitate direct talks with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). An indefinite cease-fire was declared in February 2002 which raised prospects for durable solutions for the hundreds of thousands of displaced. Meanwhile, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have been accepted as a likely basis for government policy and action by NGOs. This could enhance prospects for repatriation and reintegration if the peace process continues to gather momentum.

72. The 110,000 Bhutanese remaining in Nepal constituted one of the largest refugee groups in the region. Based on a bilateral agreement with the two governments, a joint verification to assess the eligibility of these refugees for repatriation began in March 2001, with the assistance of UNHCR, and was completed in December. Covering some 12,000 refugees in one of the seven camps, it was a modest but encouraging first step towards the durable solution of a decade-long refugee problem. Its resolution depends largely on the outcome of future bilateral talks. Meanwhile the refugees remain in camps where they have lived for over 10 years under temporary asylum in what has became a protracted situation. Renewed commitment to implement durable approaches will be needed to break the impasse.

73. The plight of 22,000 refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh has given cause for continued concern. Less than 300 refugees returned to Myanmar in 2001, the lowest number since the resumption of repatriation in 1998. UNHCR and the Government of Bangladesh conducted a population survey in the camps in December 2001, which revealed that 7,500 refugees would be willing to return immediately. It was hoped that these efforts would result in increased repatriation in 2002 with the cooperation of both governments. In Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, UNHCR also continued to play a crucial protection role in a protracted programme promoting the sustainable reintegration of a large number of Muslim returnees. As part of its efforts to encourage self-reliance, UNHCR has included literacy programmes in the Myanmar language, particularly among women. Such measures have been taken in close cooperation with UNDP's basic assistance programme in this region.

74. In India, UNHCR welcomed the Government's decision in September 2001 to reissue residence permits to a large number of Afghan urban refugees. With new developments in Afghanistan since then, it is now anticipated that may of these refugees will be able to return home, once conditions for their voluntary repatriation are met.

ii) East Asia and the Pacific

75. The protection of asylum-seekers has been a dominant issue in this region, brought to a head by the rescue at sea in September 2001 of some 430 asylum-seekers from an Indonesian fishing vessel, seeking to reach the shores of Australia. This subsequently led to the formulation by the Australian authorities of the "Pacific Solution" whereby asylum-seekers heading for Australia would be taken elsewhere in the region for their claims to be processed. Incidents such as these have revealed a general narrowing of access to asylum procedures across the region. The September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States have added to the security concerns and many States in the region have felt justified in further tightening procedures. Challenges posed by the mixed movements of refugees and migrants, including human smuggling, and their effects on asylum were discussed at the Bali Conference of Foreign Ministers held in February 2002, co-chaired by the Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

76. East Timor's accession to independence in May 2002 has been accompanied by the voluntary repatriation of most of those who had fled as a result of the violence that has marked the recent history of this territory. UNHCR has played a major role in assisting and encouraging this return, including through the distribution of shelter units. Measures were also taken in cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Authority in East-Timor (UNTAET) to help dispel safety concerns that have been a serious deterrent to

returns. As at the time of writing, only some 50,000 East Timorese remained in Indonesia, and opportunities for their local settlement are being sought with the Indonesian Government.

77. Over 1,000 members of ethnic minorities (Montagnards) from Viet Nam's central highlands sought asylum in Cambodia's north-eastern provinces in the course of 2001. Based on an assessment of their claims, they were declared by UNHCR as persons of concern and provided with basic assistance. Measures were also taken to prevent deportations and to monitor conditions for those who returned to Viet Nam. UNHCR brokered a tripartite agreement to bring about the voluntary repatriation of Montagnard refugees. Despite these efforts, the agreement collapsed, resulting in the resettlement of the caseload to a third country.

78. The Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC), now in their sixth year, continued to provide a useful forum for regional debate on asylum and migration issues. Three sub-regional meetings took place in Myanmar (April), Samoa (May) and Laos (July) covering return and reintegration, capacity-building, burden-sharing and emergency preparedness. Joint APC/Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) also took place in April in Bangkok, bringing together concerns and perspectives on the issues of irregular migration and population displacement. The Annual Plenary Meeting which took place in Manila in December, dealt with irregular migration and the ramifications such movements have on refugee protection.

D. Europe

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	6,094,400
Care and maintenance:	13,848,400
Voluntary repatriation:	-
Local settlement:	21,035,800
Resettlement:	-
Programme support:	18,718,100
Overall total:	**59,696,700**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	2,060,691
Asylum-seekers:	332,136
Returned refugees:	414
Internally displaced:	1,281,464
Returned internally displaced:	47,362
Various other groups:	683,240
Total population of concern:	**4,405,307**

i) Western, Central and Eastern Europe

79. Countries of Western Europe remained a major destination for asylum-seekers in 2001: close to 420,000 applications were made, a figure comparable to that of 2000. The largest numbers were received in Germany and the United Kingdom. Most asylum applicants came from Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, The former Republic of Yugoslavia and the Russian Federation.

80. For UNHCR, the main challenge has continued to be that of maintaining access for these new arrivals both to the territories and to the asylum systems of the countries of destination. This has become increasingly difficult in a context of reinforced legislation to prevent irregular migration and combat smuggling and trafficking, and heightened concerns about the perceived or real misuse of the asylum system by would-be economic migrants who have no other avenue of entry. The events of September 11 inevitably raised new security concerns and triggered more restrictive measures, accompanied by increased incidents of racism and intolerance towards non-nationals, that also affected attitudes towards refugees and asylum-seekers. In this hostile environment, UNHCR's advocacy role for refugees has gained new importance, leading to increased contacts at all

levels, including with civil society and the media. UNHCR has called on all governments to exercise strong political leadership and to develop and defend a coherent policy agenda on migration and asylum that responds to legitimate public concerns, neutralizes extremist tendencies and safeguards the institution of asylum.

81. UNHCR continued to be closely associated with the long-standing work of the European Union (EU) concerning the harmonization of asylum and immigration policies under the terms of the Treaty of Amsterdam and the subsequent Tampere Conclusions. By end of 2001, the harmonization efforts had produced two asylum-related EU legislative measures: a Directive on temporary protection in situations of mass influx, and a European Refugee Fund. Negotiations are underway among EU Member States to adopt common minimum standards proposed by the European Commission in relation to asylum procedures, the application of the refugee definition, reception conditions of asylum-seekers, and the allocation of responsibility for the examination of asylum applications.

82. The gradual improvement of asylum systems in countries of Central Europe has been accompanied by an increase in numbers of asylum-seekers, which totalled some 42,000 in 2001, 38 percent more than in 2001. Many asylum seekers continued to transit through Central Europe, seeking a better quality of asylum, family reunification or durable solutions in countries of Western Europe. Governments throughout the region had to contend with growing demands from Western Europe to tighten their border controls as part of the requirement for EU accession, and this has risked undermining refugee protection in countries whose asylum systems are still in the developmental stage.

83. The situation of refugees and asylum-seekers who move in an irregular manner from Central to Western Europe is a problem which UNHCR has endeavoured to address in a comprehensive manner together with all concerned States. The principal factor impelling refugees to move is the absence of real opportunities for economic and social integration in most of the Central European countries. Since these countries may not have adequate means to strengthen their reception capacity and create conditions enabling refugees to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance, pre-accession assistance from the EU is needed - including increased financial support to UNHCR's current and planned capacity-building activities in those countries.

84. In addition to providing input in the formulation of refugee legislation and asylum procedures in several countries, UNHCR has also established useful contacts with legal practitioners and academics. A network of refugee law clinics attached to law faculties has provided practical counseling work with asylum-seekers and refugees, and led to plans for a similar arrangement with respect to social clinics. Another important initiative that UNHCR has been actively pursuing, concerns a special programme for meeting the protection and assistance needs of separated asylum-seeking and refugee children.

85. In countries of Eastern Europe, continued support has been required by governments in assuming their responsibilities towards refugees, in view of their limited experience in operating asylum systems, of which the quality and consistency still need to be improved. New accessions (Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) were welcomed to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. Meanwhile, transit migration movements affected several countries, particularly in the Russian Federation and its western neighbours. To facilitate contacts both with countries of origin and of destination, UNHCR has promoted active cross-border dialogue on migration and asylum issues.

86. The protracted conflicts in the Caucasus have continued to hamper stability and development, leading to new tension. In the absence of a peaceful outcome to these conflicts, finding durable solutions to the plight of the displaced in an environment of poor security remained a major challenge for UNHCR. In parallel to the provision of basic humanitarian assistance, UNHCR has focussed on finding suitable interim solutions that would provide the displaced populations with clearly recognized legal status and allow them to participate in the social and economic life of the host societies. In this context, UNHCR continued to advocate measures encouraging the self-sufficiency of refugees and displaced groups and their inclusion in development programmes, in cooperation with development partners and governments in the region.

87. Partnerships with other agencies, notably IOM, OSCE and the Council of Europe have also been an important feature of UNHCR's contribution to the implementation of the five-year plan of action that followed the CIS Conference of 1996. This plan is designed to help build effective asylum and migration management systems, to implement national refugee and citizenship legislation, to avoid or reduce statelessness and to support the development of civil society, including NGOs which are now playing a role of growing importance in the region.

ii) South-Eastern Europe

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	10,800,800
Care and maintenance:	56,682,300
Voluntary repatriation:	26,571,400
Local settlement:	6,248,600
Resettlement:	399,500
Programme support:	11,394,300
Overall total:	**112,096,900**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	459,578
Asylum-seekers:	640
Returned refugees:	146,080
Internally displaced:	741,626
Returned internally displaced:	151,588
Various other groups:	85,000
Total population of concern:	**1,584,512**

88. Although on a reduced scale in comparison with past years, programmes in countries of South-Eastern Europe continued to represent a sizeable proportion of UNHCR's budget in 2001. Conflicts in southern Serbia and in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led to renewed population displacement. In 2001, 75,000 persons from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became internally displaced, whereas 93,000 crossed the board in to the Federal Yugoslav Republic, decreasing the refuge population by some 90,000 triggering an emergency deployment by UNHCR. However, negotiations at the political level, and confidence-building measures in which UNHCR played an important role, made it possible to curtail the fighting. By year's end, some 80 per cent of the refugees and IDPs had returned to their homes.

89. Elsewhere significant progress was recorded on several refugee and returnee issues. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a re-registration exercise was completed, revealing a decrease in the number of refugees. Of those remaining, numbering 400,000, some 60 per cent expressed a wish to stay. It is anticipated that, thanks to the Government's new initiatives in favour of durable solutions, there will now be a unique opportunity to change the status of most of these refugees. In Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were also encouraging signs of minority returnees: some 92,000 in the latter country, the largest number to date. The returns were largely due to a momentum created by the implementation of property laws.

Assistance from development sources is still required, however, in the form of housing units, in order to ensure the sustainability of the return.

90. Kosovo also continued on its path to stability, as witnessed by the holding of democratic elections in August 2001. Minorities have nevertheless remained in a precarious situation: only 2,500 displaced minorities returned. Minority enclaves in Kosovo have continued to require KFOR's special protection. On the positive side, many displaced ethnic Albanians from southern Serbia have been able to return from Kosovo, even though the process of reconstruction and reconciliation has remained fragile.

91. In this climate of uncertainty, hopes have remained pinned on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Several important initiatives were launched in 2001, including the Regional Return Initiative, accompanied by an Agenda for Regional Action endorsed in June 2001 by governments of the region. Another significant initiative concerns migration and asylum. This is of particular importance at a time of increasing flows of irregular migrants and trafficking, transiting the region towards Western Europe. UNHCR's aim under this initiative remains to ensure that bona fide asylum-seekers and refugees receive the international protection they need, and is encouraging all governments of the sub-region to draft asylum legislation and develop refugee status determination procedures.

E. Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East

Total expenditure in the region (US$) (based on table 1 of the present report)	
Emergency assistance:	39,475,100
Care and maintenance:	29,452,600
Voluntary repatriation:	8,039,600
Local settlement:	10,230,300
Resettlement:	338,000
Programme support:	17,960,600
Overall total:	**105,496,200**

Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)	
Refugees:	4,811,587
Asylum-seekers:	33,031
Returned refugees:	30,650
Internally displaced:	1,200,000
Returned internally displaced:	-
Various other groups:	267,500
Total population of concern:	**6,342,768**

92. The main focus of UNHCR's activities in the region has been on Afghanistan. In the first half of 2001, the situation was characterised by human rights abuses and continued conflict, compounded by the devastating effects of drought. The situation of the large caseloads living for over two decades mainly in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Pakistan continued to be precarious, with waning international support and increasing reluctance by these two countries to sustain a disproportionate burden.

93. The events of 11 September and the subsequent military intervention in Afghanistan, led to a dramatic change. In an initial phase, UNHCR and its partners made urgent preparations in anticipation of a potential exodus of up to 1.5 million refugees and vigorously advocated an open border policy with all neighbouring States. The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to maintain its closed border policy and did not record any new Afghan arrivals after September. After initial reluctance, the Government of Pakistan allowed vulnerable cases to cross into the country, and authorised UNHCR to establish a pre-registration camp near the border at Chaman, and to move new arrivals to new camps in Baluchistan. An estimated 200,000 Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan in 2001. Meanwhile, all international staff members were withdrawn to offices in neighbouring countries, and national staff did their best to

continue with the programme, security permitting. The evacuated staff, backed up by emergency teams and with support from offices in neighbouring countries, worked to stockpile relief items, and identify and prepare camp sites. They also tried to establish temporary protection measures, advocating open borders and negotiating with the authorities to ensure that people in flight could find temporary refuge in the surrounding countries.

94. The subsequent collapse of the Taliban and the signing of the Bonn Agreement establishing the Interim Administration in December 2001 brought a new spirit of optimism, and generous international offers of help to set Afghanistan on its feet. Within the framework of a major inter-agency mechanism, UNHCR's focus switched from preparing to receive and assist huge numbers of new arrivals in the neighbouring asylum countries, to arranging for a mass return into Afghanistan, and assistance for IDPs. In the first quarter of 2002, large-scale repatriation movements began. As of April 2002, an estimated 350,000 refugees had already returned, mainly from Pakistan, against a total planning figure of 1,250,000 for the return of refugees and IDPS. While these developments are encouraging, pursuit of this action as a durable solution will require massive and sustained support with regard to return and rehabilitation - both in Afghanistan and in the former countries of asylum.

95. Countries of Central Asia were also affected by developments in Afghanistan. In Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, preparations were made for a possible influx of Afghans as a result of the military operations inside Afghanistan. The focus then moved to providing logistical support and transit for operations and offices in Afghanistan. UNHCR's sub-office in Termez, Uzbekistan, became a major delivery centre for goods and staff into the Mazar area of Afghanistan, particularly following the opening of the Friendship Bridge. Supplies and goods were sent into Afghanistan from the three countries. Security concerns on the part of the Central Asian governments resulted in the introduction of some measures restricting movements of foreign nationals. However, no instances of *refoulement* of refugees were reported.

96. The major challenge for UNHCR in Central Asia has remained the advocacy of refugee issues and the promotion of effective asylum legislation. In Kazakhstan, the draft law on refugees is still pending; in Tajikstan, the Government's proposed new refugee law was a serious cause for concern, as were the restrictions on Afghan refugees' right to freedom of movement and residence. Efforts to develop close working relations with governmental counterparts and provide technical assistance were rewarded in 2001 in Kyrgystan, where several hundred Tajik refugees acquired citizenship.

97. There were no major changes in the refugee situation in North Africa in 2001. UNHCR continued to provide protection and material assistance to urban and camp-based refugees and asylum-seekers mainly from sub-Saharan African countries. Ongoing protection and assistance was assured for the most needy among the estimated 165,000 refugees (Government figures) residing in the Tindouf camps in the Western Sahara region in south-west Algeria. However, the ongoing food shortage necessitated the launching of UNHCR and WFP appeals for assistance from the international community. Finding durable solutions for these refugees has been hindered by the political impasse in Western Sahara. The attempts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to break the deadlock met with no success in 2001, and in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the refugee population and their communities of origin, UNHCR proposed confidence-building measures through family visits, telephone and mailing services. Preparatory measures for voluntary repatriation to enable Western Saharan refugees to participate in

the referendum on independence or integration with Morocco remained at a standstill.

98. Following the 11 September terrorist attacks, there was a significant slow-down in the processing of resettlement cases, and refugees accepted for resettlement stayed longer in their respective countries of asylum. This increased assistance requirements pending their departures. In the Middle East region, the international offensive against terrorism, combined with the deterioration of the situation over the Palestinian issue, led to mounting tension in countries thought to be harbouring terrorist groups. In view of the threat of renewed conflict, UNHCR updated contingency plans to ensure optimum emergency preparedness.

III. GLOBAL THEMES

A. Introduction

99. Throughout 2001 and early 2002, both in areas concerning protection and assistance activities and in its general management of the Office's resources and presence across the world, UNHCR paid particular attention to a number of important cross-cutting themes. Many of these themes provided opportunities for strengthening both internal and external partnerships in order to coordinate appropriate, cost-effective and timely responses. The most notable recent example was the launching of the inter-agency response to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, where consideration of environmental issues and the development of sustainable solutions for self-reliance in newly-returned communities will be crucial. Across the globe, but perhaps most acutely in Africa, the urgent need to develop HIV/AIDS awareness and integrate proactive measures into its protection and assistance role is of high priority for UNHCR. A brief description of the Office's efforts to provide broad-based responses to these and other global themes is provided in the sections that follow.

B. Managing the environment

100. In 2001, following a review of means, resources and achievements to date, UNHCR reformulated its objectives for the promotion of sound environmental management in refugee and returnee situations. New or improved guidelines and handbooks on the application and monitoring of sound practices in agriculture, land management and energy conservation were developed. Training workshops on environmental management were organized in various African countries for UNHCR and partner staff. A CD-ROM Resource Pack was produced to extend the impact of this training and replicate the approach in other situations.

101. Parallel efforts were made to raise environmental awareness in refugee communities through educational outreach programmes, geared particularly towards children, in collaboration with UNESCO's Programme for Education in Emergencies and Reconstruction. Specific projects included those in Afghanistan, Rwanda, Sudan and Zimbabwe to promote the reduction of wood consumption through alternative fuel sources, and prevent soil erosion. The introduction of permaculture systems has had positive results both in terms of environmental rehabilitation and as a significant income-generating activity through the sale of produce. Another promising initiative developed in 2001 was the identification in Thailand of the means to construct large water storage tanks that are less expensive and more environmentally sound than models used currently by UNHCR.

102. Joint ventures with agencies such as CARE International, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature helped UNHCR to identify potential development partners for eventual hand-over of programmes it has initiated. Monitoring and assessment missions under the Framework for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Environment in Refugee Operations took place in Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda. Also under this project, databases for the collection and interpretation of information and practical monitoring systems were put in place in 2001 in Guinea and Uganda. While much was achieved, it was felt that the environment was not yet sufficiently integrated in the planning and implementation of UNHCR's programmes, prompting the development of an environmental integration strategy that is being pursued in 2002.

C. HIV/AIDS

103. According to recent estimates by UNAIDS, more than 36 million people worldwide live today with HIV/AIDS. While no continent has been spared, the situation in Africa is particularly catastrophic. In this region, the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS is estimated to be 25.3 million. This means that 70 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children living with HIV in the world, are to be found in Africa, which is home to 10 per cent of the world's population. Since the epidemic began, three-quarters of the over 20 million people world-wide who have died of AIDS have been Africans. The situation in other continents is also alarming. Asia accounts today for 20 per cent of all infections world-wide, and the AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe is escalating. It is widely recognized that conflicts, instability, food insecurity, as well as poverty and deprivation offer fertile ground for the spread of HIV and AIDS. This reality is most acute for the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), whose physical, financial and social insecurity erodes their habitual caring and coping mechanisms.

104. HIV/AIDS issues were given high priority on the UNHCR agenda in 2001 and a draft strategic plan for 2002-2004 was developed with the objective of strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities in refugee situations globally. This plan was discussed at the first meeting in February 2001 of a newly-created Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS bringing together States and other parties. The role of this Advisory Group will primarily cover: advocacy; the promotion of partnership and complementary collaboration; the provision of technical and financial support on the basis of a plan of action on HIV prevention and care of refugees; and, the identification of potential support from existing bilateral and multilateral aid. A follow-up meeting in 2002 will aim to finalise the draft strategic plan before the meeting of the Executive Committee in the autumn.

105. UNHCR has already been supporting projects on HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health since 2000 under a three-year joint project with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) entitled "Strengthening Reproductive Health Services in Communities in Crisis", funded by the Ted Turner-United Nations Foundation. In 2001 projects targeting young people in particular, were run in twelve countries, in cooperation with a network of national and international NGO partners.

D. Community Services

106. Following the elaboration of its new policy reinforcing a community development approach in 2001, UNHCR deployed staff to assess needs, train local staff and create specific activities, targeting children and women in Thailand, Ukraine, East Timor, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone,

Guinea, Russia, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These interventions were cross-sectoral and designed to identify diverse needs and issues relating to different groups of refugees within the community. The Community Services officers also participated in all emergency assessment and response interventions that occurred in 2001.

107. Under partnership arrangements with Save the Children-Norway and Sweden, new staff were trained in UNHCR programming prior to their deployment in order to enhance their effectiveness on the ground. A joint UNHCR/Save the Children monitoring mission also worked in West Africa in June 2001 to support and guide the deployed staff during their assignment. A pilot training, incorporating community development, protection and gender-awareness concerns was held in Cyprus in early 2001, paving the way for further development of cross-sectoral activities. The development of training materials and technical guidance for field staff, implementing partners and refugee community leaders is being pursued.

E. Humanitarian assistance and development

108. In the past year, UNHCR intensified efforts to highlight the pressing need to find durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons in protracted situations. Key priorities in 2001 were to raise awareness of the demoralizing and pernicious effects of enforced idleness and exclusion from the right to work and earn a living, on persons of concern caught up in protracted situations; and to find ways of bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and development. This prompted the organization of a panel discussion bringing together concerned partners from United Nations agencies, governmental representatives, and non-governmental groups during the Executive Committee session in October, followed by further exchanges in December 2001 during informal Ministerial Consultations on new approaches and partnerships in Africa.

109. The search for durable solutions implies the creation of a conducive environment through concerted efforts between governments, development and humanitarian agencies, allowing socio-economic interactions between refugees or returnees and local populations. Only then can they become self-reliant and contribute actively to local socio-economic development. At the beginning of 2001, UNHCR sought to ease the transition from humanitarian assistance to long-term development by forging stronger and more predictable partnerships with development agencies. The Office continued to build a network of inter-agency support for reintegration in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Burundi and Sri Lanka and for local integration in Armenia, Serbia and Georgia. UNHCR played a catalytic role in the Zambia initiative whereby a joint approach by UNHCR, the Zambian Government and donors has created a platform for the development of one of the poorest provinces in Zambia benefiting the local populations and the refugees hosted in the area. Support of joint planning and co-ordination of activities was provided through the United Nations Country Teams in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Eritrea, Pakistan and Afghanistan for the development of Management Information Systems. In partnership with the International Labour Office (ILO), UNHCR developed a draft training manual on microfinance in conflict-affected communities. ILO also provided technical expertise in microfinance for economic self-sufficiency projects for refugees and returnees in India, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

110. As part of UNHCR's determination to further strengthen existing partnerships with bilateral development institutes, a staff exchange was initiated with the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) at the end of 2001. This resulted in deeper understanding and cooperation on projects in

refugee hosting areas in Tanzania and Zambia. The possibility of collaboration on the reintegration of returnees was also envisaged in Myanmar and Afghanistan. Partnership with the *Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) allowed development of an integrated approach to rehabilitation and reconstruction in areas of return in Sierra Leone under the ReAct concept. This approach is vital in situations when there is no existing community and where refugees, internally displaced persons, and former combatants return simultaneously to an area to begin rebuilding a community. The synergy between GTZ's development expertise and UNHCR's protection role renders the return more sustainable.

111. The initiative "Imagine Coexistence" involving UNHCR, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and initially the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, pursued its activities in promoting reconciliation and coexistence in divided post-conflict communities. A project promoting the implementation of income-generating and capacity-building activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Rwanda, and a parallel research component, have been funded by the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security set up by the Government of Japan.

F. Evaluation and policy analysis

112. UNHCR continued to implement its plan of action for the development and devolution of the evaluation function to ensure that UNHCR's planning, programming and policy-making processes are effectively informed by the systematic analysis and assessment of the Office's operational activities. New methodology was tested including joint evaluations with governmental and non-governmental partners, "real-time" evaluations of emergency operations and "beneficiary-based" evaluations soliciting the views of the target recipients of UNHCR's support and services. Training of UNHCR staff in evaluation objectives and methods was provided and funding was made available to field operations wishing to initiate a review of their programmes.

113. A number of evaluation projects were initiated in 2001, the most significant of which was an independent review of the impact of UNHCR's activities in meeting the protection needs of refugee children. Other areas covered included reviews of UNHCR's work on internal displacement issues in Angola and Sri Lanka; on reintegration programmes in Liberia and South-east Asia; and on the protection of refugees' physical security in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Evaluations were also carried out on the role of the Office in strengthening national non-governmental organisations; in addressing the issue of statelessness; and in developing policy in relation to urban-based refugees.

IV. BUDGET AND FINANCING OF ACTIVITIES

114. Severe funding constraints already experienced in recent years again affected UNHCR's activities in 2001. An initial target of US$ 898.5 million was approved by the Executive Committee in October 2000, at its fifty-first session. During the course of 2001, seven Supplementary Programmes were approved, notably for operations in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sierra Leone and for needs resulting from the situation in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, adding some US$ 117.0 million to the initial Budget for 2001. However, total income throughout the year (see Table 2) fell considerably short of requirements. This inevitably led to budget cuts and measures to manage the shortfall in the course of the year, which affected many operations.

115. Within the confining limits of available resources, expenditure for the year totalled some US$ 801 million. A breakdown of expenditure by region and type of assistance is provided in Table 1. It reveals that expenditure was highest in Africa (some US$ 307 million), followed by South-East Europe (US$ 112 million) and South-West Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East (US$ 105 million). In terms of types of assistance, the largest share was for care and maintenance pending durable solutions (some 32 per cent of total expenditure), again mainly in Africa. Expenditure on voluntary repatriation, local settlement and resettlement (the three durable solutions) accounted for 28 per cent of total expenditure.

116. It was this context of financial shortfalls that prompted the introduction of "Actions 1, 2 and 3", as referred to in the introductory paragraphs to this report. This involved a thorough review of all operations, based on a careful analysis of what could be considered "core" and "non core" activities, leading to budget and staff reductions as field offices were closed in some areas. For its part, the Executive Committee also held a series of consultations on budget issues during the year in an attempt to help find solutions.

117. As part of these efforts to increase and ensure more stability of its income, UNHCR has continued to work towards obtaining a larger contribution from the United Nations Regular Budget. Over the years, this contribution has dwindled to a minimal percentage of requirements. With the support of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a commitment to a modest increase was obtained for the Biennum 2002-2003, but the Regular Budget contribution still falls far short of the full amount to which the Office should be entitled as envisaged under its Statute.

118. 2001 also witnessed the beginning of a new strategy to increase funds raised from the private and corporate sector through a network of staff and national associations at work in 15 countries. Over US$ 20 million were raised in the course of the year, the largest amounts being in Italy, the United States and Japan, with Spain and Germany close behind. The Executive Committee featured a panel discussion on "broadening support to refugees" at its fifty-second session, to help raise awareness of the potential partnership between humanitarian work and the corporate world and civil society. For durable results, however, a consistent effort will be required which in turn demands an investment of resources by the Office.

119. A target of US$ 828.6 was endorsed by the Executive Committee for the current year (2002). To that amount six Supplementary Programmes, amounting to US$ 203.6, have been approved so far, of which the largest share is for Afghan returnees (US$ 178.8 million). Income in early April 2002 stood at US$ 399.8 million (see Table 2). It is anticipated that full financing of the programme will again be an elusive target this year, despite intense efforts at every level. As High Commissioner, this challenge thus remains high on my agenda.

V. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

120. The Inspector General's Office (IGO) is responsible for both inspection and investigation activities within UNHCR and may conduct other types of enquiries when requested.

121. In 2001, inspections were conducted of UNHCR operations in 11 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Djibouti, Eritrea, India, Lebanon, Namibia, South Africa, Yemen and Zambia. In September 2001, IGO oversaw the conduct of one inquiry into the violent death of a staff member in the Democratic

Republic of the Congo. Throughout the year, it continued to cooperate with the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) by facilitating the provision of relevant UNHCR-specific information and access to relevant officials.

122. As focal point for investigations, the Inspector General is also responsible for ensuring investigation of alleged or suspected staff misconduct within UNHCR whether misuse of funds, resources or facilities, abuse of authority and harassment, mistreatment of refugees or any improper conduct involving UNHCR staff or funds. Depending on their nature, investigations may be conducted by UNHCR staff, the UNHCR Audit Section of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the OIOS Investigation Section, or using other resources.

123. In the course of 2001, the Office received 31 complaints of alleged wrongdoing and conducted nine preliminary investigations bearing on 16 staff members on allegations of harassment, fraud, corruption with respect to resettlement as well as misuse of UNHCR assets and facilities. IGO recommended disciplinary measures against 12 staff members which led to sanctions against eight, and the decision is pending on the other four cases. Four staff members were cleared of the allegations against them. Two preliminary investigations initiated in 2001 were ongoing. One of these has been referred to the Investigation Division of OIOS and is jointly conducted with IGO. The preliminary investigation into corruption with UNHCR Nairobi's resettlement activities referred to OIOS in 2000 was concluded during 2001 and a report presented to the General Assembly. In early 2002, following allegations of sexual exploitation and violence against refugee children in West Africa, UNHCR requested OIOS to undertake an investigation in collaboration with IGO. An investigation team was sent to one country in the region in March 2002 to undertake a pre-investigation assessment, and to be followed by a full investigation into the allegations in all three countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

VI. PARTNERSHIPS/COORDINATION

A. Introduction

124. In 2001, UNHCR placed renewed emphasis on the importance of reviewing and strengthening current partnerships in order to increase the level and quality of resources reaching refugees and returnees. A Task Force on Partnerships, established in September 2001, was divided into two sub-working groups: one to examine partnerships with United Nations agencies and international organizations; the other to look at partnerships with NGOs (see below). The sub-working groups reviewed the status of existing partnerships, trying to highlight weaknesses and ways of improvement, as well as examining cross-cutting issues and other potential types of collaboration for strengthening UNHCR's partnerships in a broader sense. Further Task Force discussions in 2002 will aim to consolidate the conclusions drawn and launch a concrete plan of action for strategic areas of partnership.

125. IOM and UNHCR worked closely together in 2001 in the context of the Global Consultations on International Protection under the item "Refugee Protection and Migration Control". The two organizations then formed the Action Group on Asylum and Migration (AGAMI). At its first meeting in November 2001, the terms of reference were defined, which recommended furthering the understanding of the nexus between migration and asylum; reviewing substantive policy issues; and exploring ways of cooperation between IOM and UNHCR in these matters. An early example of this was the preparation of a joint IOM-UNHCR paper on "Asylum and Migration - the

imperative of interaction and cooperation" to be issued in the autumn of 2002 by IOM in the context of the new edition of "The World Migration Report".

126. Other important events included the annual High-level Meeting with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in June 2001 at which the discussion focussed on issues related to the respective mandates and activities, the security of refugees and staff, and the separation of armed elements. As a follow-up to the Brookings process, under the leadership of the Danish Government and UNHCR, a team was set up to visit Rwanda in February 2001. This resulted in the creation of a local Task Force chaired by the Government of Rwanda in which UNHCR and UNDP participated. This Task Force produced a report on "Land and Human Settlement" which was distributed and discussed in a National Workshop attended by 150 government, donor, United Nations and NGO representatives.

127. Further progress was achieved in updating memoranda of understanding (MOU) with key partners. They included the 1997 MOU with the World Food Programme (WFP). The signature is expected in early 2002 and this MOU will enhance cooperation and clarify the operational roles of each agency. The 1969 MOU with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was amended in 2001, updating the framework of the cooperation between the two organisations in the field of protection and material assistance to refugees, IDPs and persons of concern; promotion of refugee law; emergency preparedness; and public awareness on refugee rights. In November 2001, UNHCR signed an MOU with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to ensure protection of refugees; promotion of refugee law; post-conflict recovery; organized and spontaneous voluntary repatriation; rehabilitation and reintegration activities; local settlement and resettlement within ECOWAS countries.

B. Coordination with other members of the United Nations system

128. Coordination within the United Nations system was actively pursued through UNHCR's participation in the Chief Executives' Board (CEB - formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination) and its subsidiary bodies, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM). UNHCR also participated in the plenary sessions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and its Working Group, and derived particular benefit from the discussions on the following issues: the review of the Military and Civil Defence Unit; the Draft Guidelines for the use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in complex emergencies; United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC); the review and strengthening of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP); binding guidelines for the use of military assets for humanitarian convoys; the development of guidelines for Field Security Collaboration between United Nations and other actors; and inter-agency contingency planning.

129. During 2001, UNHCR participated in the Resident Coordinator System and the United Nations Country Team at the field level, including the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process. The agenda of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat at the end of November 2001 included discussions on: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP); security issues within the system; the gap between relief and development; as well as natural disasters, and the OCHA change process. A senior UNHCR staff member was seconded to the Internal Displacement Unit set up within OCHA at the end of 2001, and the Office remains engaged in the IDP Network in an advisory capacity.

130. In the aftermath of the 11 September attacks, UNHCR contributed to the work of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee with a paper entitled "Ten refugee protection concerns in the aftermath of September 11". This was followed shortly afterwards by a presentation of UNHCR's perspective on addressing security concerns without undermining refugee protection. The Office also participated at senior level in the meetings of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), nominated by the Secretary-General in September 2001 as the United Nations system-wide focal point on terrorism. UNHCR played an active role in the newly-established Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), which was tasked, during the first months of the Afghan crisis, with developing an integrated United Nations strategy for humanitarian response, post-conflict rehabilitation and development. UNHCR also attended the meetings of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Working Group on Afghanistan, in light of the close linkage between post-conflict rehabilitation and the search for durable solutions. Such intensive inter-agency cooperation, in the context of the Afghan crisis, provided an opportunity to place humanitarian, refugee and IDP issues on the agenda, bringing greater visibility and awareness of UNHCR's role in humanitarian affairs before military and political bodies responsible for key negotiations and interventions.

C. Relations with non-governmental organizations

131. During 2001, the Office entered into project agreements with 573 NGOs (426 national and 147 international) covering operational activities in favour of refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR. These implementing partnerships mobilised US$ 193 million, which represented 21 per cent of UNHCR's total budget. As mentioned earlier, the UNHCR Task Force on Partnerships set up two sub-working groups, one of which reviewed available information and examined various aspects of partnership from both NGO and UNHCR perspectives, including trends in UNHCR's past funding of NGOs. The key recommendations presented to the Task Force at the end of 2001, which were endorsed by the Office's senior management, included the need to: focus on national NGOs; improve guidelines for disseminating the content and spirit of the Framework Agreement on Operational Support down to the field level; establish strategic alliances with NGOs; and reconfigure the PARinAC process.

132. Throughout the year, NGOs played an active role in the Global Consultations on International Protection, participating in round-table meetings to examine trends in refugee law, with a view to informing decision-makers who formulate refugee policy. Prior to the fifty-second Session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in November 2001, over 200 representatives from 168 NGOs attended the Pre-ExCom three-day meeting. A range of events, including panel discussions, regional and thematic working groups as well as plenary sessions, provided the opportunity to examine a number of operational issues of concern to participating agencies, such as: UNHCR and partnership with NGOs; the role of NGOs in refugee protection, migration, human smuggling and asylum; and IDPs. The outcome of these meetings was reflected in the joint NGO statement made by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) on behalf of the NGO community at the Executive Committee session.

Table 1

UNHCR Expenditure in 2001 by regional bureau/country and types of assistance activity

(All sources of funds - in thousands of United States dollars)

Regional bureau / country	Type of assistance					Support		Total
	Emergency assistance	Care and maintenance	Voluntary repatriation	Local settlement	Resettlement	Programme support	Management and administration	
1. West and Central Africa								
Regional Office (Abidjan)	-	-	-	-	-	4,052.9	-	4,052.9
Benin	-	-	-	406.6	-	288.9	-	695.5
Burkina Faso	-	108.8	-	45.1	-	167.6	-	321.5
Cameroon	-	68.2	214.8	379.9	-	277.9	-	940.8
Central African Republic	-	132.4	56.0	1,821.3	-	788.8	-	2,800.5
Chad	-	162.9	788.1	247.0	-	483.5	-	1,682.5
Côte D'Ivoire	-	136.5	65.0	4,233.5	-	760.3	-	5,195.3
Gabon	-	2,122.1	53.2	55.0	-	492.0	-	2,722.3
Gambia	-	285.2	-	66.2	-	223.3	-	554.7
Ghana	-	412.9	-	44.4	-	459.0	-	916.3
Guinea	-	29,725.9	2,693.4	258.8	-	2,937.3	-	35,615.2
Liberia	-	4,736.9		-	-	2,035.2	-	6,772.1
Mali	-	179.3	-	-	-	115.9	-	295.2
Niger	-	70.0	-	163.0	-	91.6	-	324.6
Nigeria	-	345.4	-	34.1	-	487.0	-	866.5
Senegal	-	239.1	-	365.3	-	714.4	-	1,318.8
Sierra Leone	-	-	16,771.9	120.0	-	2,325.2	-	19,217.1
Togo	-	129.9	-	27.1	-	70.5	-	227.5
Regional projects	-	-	110.0	549.8	20.0		-	679.8
sub total (1)	**-**	**36,835.5**	**20,755.4**	**8,818.9**	**20.0**	**16,799.3**	**-**	**83,199.1**
2. The Great Lakes, East and Horn of Africa								
Regional Office (Nairobi, Addis Ababa)		217.6	-	-	-	5,042.2	-	5,259.8
Burundi	-	462.9	5,726.1	-	-	1,212.5	-	7,401.5
Congo	-	4,199.9	140.0	537.4	-	1,660.4	-	6,536.7
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	1,275.4	12,108.8	2,370.1	4,162.7	-	4,160.2	-	24,077.2
Djibouti	-	1,361.8	131.0	-	-	950.2	-	2,443.0
Eritrea	-	1,189.9	15,394.4	-	-	1,918.5	-	18,500.8
Ethiopia	-	6,948.3	6,208.5	4,443.6	100.0	2,473.7	-	20,172.1
Kenya	-	16,062.2	306.6	-	260.0	4,307.4	-	20,936.2
Rwanda	-	5,607.9	683.4	92.5	-	2,226.4	-	8,610.2
Somalia	-	-	8,097.6	41.8	-	-	-	8,139.4
Sudan	-	6,259.7	3,551.4	222.5	16.5	1,978.7	-	12,028.8
Uganda	-	3,242.9	-	8,967.4	-	2,194.1	-	14,404.4
United Republic of Tanzania	-	26,441.9	120.9	102.3	-	2,208.0	-	28,873.1
Regional projects	-	7,876.1	15.1	566.0	15.0	-	-	8,562.2
sub total (2)	**1,275.4**	**91,879.9**	**42,743.1**	**19,188.2**	**391.5**	**30,329.3**	**-**	**185,888.4**
3. Southern Africa								
Regional Office (Pretoria)				154.7		1,478.1		1,632.8
Angola	5,178.4	-	2.4	1,547.4	-	1,656.1	-	8,384.3
Botswana	-	1,530.0	-	-	-	322.2	-	1,852.2
Malawi	25.0	923.7	-	-	-	265.7	-	1,214.4
Mozambique	25.0	-	-	864.4	-	287.6	-	1,197.0
Namibia	-	2,162.5	-	-	-	711.2	-	2,873.7
South Africa	-	-	35.5	1,828.7	52.8	1,266.2	-	2,981.2
Swaziland	-	133.5	-	-	-	163.9	-	297.4
Zambia	-	3,629.5	-	7,720.1	-	1,925.7	-	13,475.3
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	969.4	-	332.5	-	1,301.9
Regional projects	-	-	-	294.0	-	-	-	294.0
sub total (3)	**5,228.4**	**8,379.2**	**37.9**	**13,196.7**	**52.8**	**8,411.2**	**-**	**35,504.2**
TOTAL AFRICA (1-3)	**6,503.8**	**136,304.6**	**63,536.4**	**41,181.9**	**464.3**	**55,539.8**	**-**	**304,588.7**

Table 1

Regional bureau / country	Type of assistance					Support		Total
	Emergency assistance	Care and maintenance	Voluntary repatriation	Local settlement	Resettlement	Programme support	Management and administration	
4. Central Asia, South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East								
Afghanistan	4,509.7	-	5,714.6	86.0	-	2,886.9	-	13,897.2
Algeria	-	3,155.9	-	-	-	837.2	-	3,993.1
Egypt	-	1,415.6	-	86.7	131.3	1,006.0	-	2,669.6
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1,036.2	1,074.6	880.0	9,458.3	-	1,903.9	-	14,361.0
Iraq	-	1,567.1	-	-	89.0	1,480.4	-	3,136.5
Israel	-	-	-	-	-	9.2	-	9.2
Jordan	-	939.6	-	-	-	314.8	-	1,254.4
Kazakhstan	-	523.9	133.1	-	-	346.5	-	1,003.5
Kuwait	-	180.8	-	-	4.9	297.0	-	482.7
Kyrgyzstan	-	482.0	-	176.4	-	497.4	-	1,155.8
Lebanon	-	1,426.1	-	-	90.2	542.7	-	2,061.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	725.2	-	-	-	359.3	-	1,084.5
Mauritania	-	39.7	-	-	-	208.5	-	248.2
Morocco	-	133.9	-	-	-	236.2	-	370.1
Pakistan, Islamic Republic of	12,071.7	12,253.8	560.8	-	-	2,869.1	-	27,355.4
Saudi Arabia	-	621.8	-	-	1.0	914.9	-	1,537.7
Syrian Arab Republic	-	1,116.2	-	-	41.6	880.6	-	1,918.4
Tajikistan	582.1	283.0	549.9	-	-	918.7	-	2,333.7
Tunisia	-	128.0	-	-	-	205.2	-	333.2
Turkmenistan	133.9	370.1	-	157.2	-	414.0	-	1,075.2
United Arab Emirates	-	87.0	-	-	-	-	-	87.0
Uzbekistan	303.2	292.7	-	-	-	600.0	-	1,195.9
Western Sahara Territory	-	-	-	-	-	305.0	-	305.0
Yemen	-	2,833.6	201.2	-	-	538.1	-	3,372.9
Regional projects	20,858.3	-	-	297.7	-	-	-	21,156.0
sub total (4)	**38,475.1**	**29,452.6**	**8,039.6**	**10,230.3**	**338.0**	**17,960.6**	**-**	**105,496.2**
5. Asia and the Pacific								
Australia and New Zealand	-	488.9	-	-	-	565.2	-	1,054.1
Bangladesh	-	76.2	1,790.4	-	-	842.1	-	2,588.7
Cambodia	-	230.0	34.5	-	-	608.5	-	873.0
China	-	1,815.5	-	194.6	-	603.3	-	2,413.4
East Timor	-	-	5,924.8	-	-	3,770.7	-	9,695.5
India	25.0	1,612.3	42.1	-	-	851.4	-	2,530.8
Indonesia	446.8	4,439.2	-	-	-	2,101.8	-	6,987.8
Japan	247.9	-	-	645.4	-	1,923.7	-	2,817.0
Korea, Republic of	-	-	-	-	-	93.5	-	93.5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-	296.0	-	212.4	-	508.4
Malaysia	-	384.9	-	-	-	306.9	-	691.8
Myanmar	-	-	4,126.8	-	-	882.6	-	5,009.4
Nepal	-	4,435.5	152.1	223.3	-	584.9	-	5,395.8
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	452.9	-	-	-	452.9
Philippines	-	150.4	-	129.4	-	248.3	-	528.1
Singapore	-	46.4	-	-	-	-	-	46.4
Sri Lanka	-	25.8	5,126.1	-	-	815.4	-	5,967.3
Thailand	-	506.9	2,895.2	-	-	1,035.3	-	4,437.4
Viet Nam	-	-	-	11.0	-	106.5	-	117.5
Regional projects	25.0	64.0	15.0	30.0	-	-	-	134.0
sub total (5)	**744.7**	**14,679.9**	**20,106.8**	**1,982.6**	**-**	**15,332.7**	**-**	**52,262.8**

Table 1

Regional bureau / country	Type of assistance					Support		Total
	Emergency assistance	Care and maintenance	Voluntary repatriation	Local settlement	Resettlement	Programme support	Management and administration	
6. Europe								
Armenia	-	65.1	-	2,363.7	-	479.4	-	2,908.2
Austria	-	-	-	777.0	-	542.8	-	1,319.8
Azerbaijan	-	732.6	-	2,512.4	-	752.3	-	3,997.3
Baltic States	-	249.6	-	-	-	-	-	249.6
Belarus	-	498.8	-	-	-	281.2	-	780.0
Belgium	-	-	-	449.0	-	1,707.0	-	2,156.0
Bulgaria	-	-	-	700.4	-	293.5	-	993.9
Cyprus	-	-	-	188.2	-	273.5	-	461.7
Czech Republic	-	-	-	426.1	-	353.8	-	779.9
France	-	-	-	929.3	-	870.8	-	1,800.1
Georgia	1,404.1	3,236.4	-	-	-	1,023.5	-	5,664.0
Germany	-	-	-	909.1	-	785.1	-	1,694.2
Greece	-	-	-	652.0	-	533.6	-	1,185.6
Hungary	-	-	-	854.3	-	646.2	-	1,498.5
Ireland	-	-	-	39.9	-	198.3	-	238.2
Italy	-	-	-	537.5	-	821.2	-	1,358.7
Latvia	-	30.1	-	-	-	238.8	-	268.9
Malta	-	175.6	-	-	-	-	-	175.6
Moldova, Republic of	-	779.7	-	-	-	301.4	-	1,081.1
Netherland	-	-	-	-	-	165.5	-	165.5
Poland	-	-	-	407.8	-	381.7	-	789.3
Portugal	-	-	-	85.6	-	-	-	85.6
Romania	-	-	-	765.1	-	335.7	-	1,100.8
Russian Federation	4,590.3	5,122.3	-	3,051.1	-	2,339.3	-	15,293.0
Slovakia	-	-	-	192.1	-	337.5	-	529.6
Slovenia	-	-	-	481.7	-	240.6	-	722.3
Spain	-	-	-	231.6	-	592.5	-	824.1
Sweden	-	-	-	303.3	-	731.4	-	1,034.7
Switzerland	-	-	-	328.0	-	191.8	-	519.8
Turkey	-	2,958.2	-	-	-	1,921.9	-	4,880.1
Ukraine	-	-	-	2,558.1	-	841.8	-	3,199.9
United Kingdom	-	-	-	332.0	-	836.0	-	1,168.0
Regional projects	-		-	980.7	-	-	-	980.7
sub total (6)	5,994.4	13,848.4	-	31,035.8	-	18,718.1	-	58,698.7
7. South-Eastern Europe								
Albania	226.0	1,945.8	-	-	-	948.7	-	3,120.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	6,188.8	15,270.2	-	-	4,097.1	-	25,555.9
Croatia	-	-	9,737.3	-	-	1,363.3	-	11,100.6
The former Yugoslav Rep.of Macedoni	3,872.4	4,427.7	-	-	-	1,401.0	-	9,701.1
Yugoslavia	6,275.1	44,120.2	1,536.3	6,248.8	399.5	3,584.2	-	62,163.9
Regional projects	427.3	-	27.6	-	-	-	-	454.9
sub total (7)	10,800.8	56,682.3	26,571.4	6,248.8	399.5	11,394.3	-	112,096.9
Total Europe (6-7)	16,895.2	70,530.7	26,571.4	37,284.4	399.5	30,112.4	-	171,793.6

Table 1

Regional bureau / country	Type of assistance					Support		Total
	Emergency assistance	Care and maintenance	Voluntary repatriation	Local settlement	Resettlement	Programme support	Management and administration	
8. The Americas								
Liaison Office in New York	-	-	-	-	-	1,531.3		1,531.3
Argentina	-	-	-	74.8	-	1,011.7	-	1,086.5
Canada	-	-	-	587.1	-	495.6	-	1,082.7
Colombia	-	-	-	3,015.5	-	790.6	-	3,806.1
Costa Rica	-	-	-	502.1	-	441.7	-	943.8
Cuba	25.0	389.2	142.5	-	-	-	-	556.7
Ecuador	-	-	-	652.1	-	386.7	-	1,038.8
Mexico	-	-	-	3,527.2	-	1,265.1	-	4,792.3
Panama	-	-	-	299.9	-	-	-	299.9
United States of America	-	-	-	1,562.8	-	1,289.1	-	2,851.9
Venezuela	-	133.6	-	-	-	1,462.9	-	1,596.5
Reg. projects for North Latin America	30.0	-	7.8	707.7	-	-	-	745.5
Reg. projects for the Caribbean	-	-	-	135.5	-	-	-	135.5
Reg. projects for South Latin America	-	-	-	1,790.0	-	-	-	1,790.0
Reg. projects for West. Latin America	-	-	-	315.3	-	-	-	315.3
sub total (8)	**55.0**	**522.8**	**150.3**	**13,190.0**	**-**	**8,684.7**	**-**	**22,572.8**
9. Global Operations	1,806.0	2,947.5	50.0	11,261.2	3,394.0	27,892.8		47,371.5
sub-total Field (1 - 9)	**68,477.8**	**258,934.2**	**118,464.5**	**105,188.3**	**4,586.8**	**155,483.9**	**-**	**709,085.6**
10. Headquarters								
Programme Support						32,542.5		32,542.5
Management & Administration							34,766.3	34,766.3
sub-total Headquarters (10)						**32,542.5**	**34,766.3**	**67,308.8**
TOTAL (1 - 10)	**68,477.8**	**258,934.2**	**118,464.5**	**105,188.3**	**4,586.8**	**188,026.5**	**34,766.3**	**773,394.4**
11. UN Regular Budget							20,423.1	20,423.1
12. Junior Professional Off.							7,142.0	7,142.0
TOTAL UNHCR (1 - 12)	**68,477.8**	**258,934.2**	**118,464.5**	**105,188.3**	**4,586.8**	**188,026.5**	**62,331.4**	**800,959.5**
of which								
Annual Programme Budget	12,250.1	258,934.2	83,344.1	103,873.7	4,586.8	181,884.0	34,766.3	677,819.1
Supplementary Programme Budget	53,227.7	-	35,110.4	1,278.6	-	6,160.6	-	95,775.3

Table 2 CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES 2001-2002
Situation as at 31 March 2002
(in US Dollars)

2001					2002 *			
ANNUAL PROGRAMMES	JPO PROGRAMMES	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES	TOTAL 2001	DONOR	ANNUAL PROGRAMMES	JPO PROGRAMMES	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES	TOTAL 2002
				A. Governments				
50,000			50,000	Algeria	50,000			50,000
9,854,960		2,080,799	11,935,759	Australia	7,295,919		102,564	7,398,483
728,439			728,439	Austria	249,493			249,493
6,413,224	364,166	141,451	7,119,041	Belgium	2,667,680			2,667,680
5,000			5,000	Bermuda	5,000			5,000
				Brunei Darussalam			163,310	163,310
13,765,108		3,375,445	17,140,553	Canada	3,009,998		186,335	3,196,333
10,000		20,000	30,000	Chile				-
250,000		62,700	312,700	China				-
25,000			25,000	Colombia				-
15,123			15,123	Costa Rica	2,495			2,495
10,000			10,000	Cyprus	10,000			10,000
17,530		107,325	124,855	Czech Republic				-
31,986,919	1,000,465	4,342,870	37,329,450	Denmark		180,069		180,069
35,461			35,461	Estonia	16,878			16,878
10,562,376	226,664	1,058,247	11,847,287	Finland		226,858		226,858
7,811,642	741,998		8,553,640	France	1,639,691	86,295		1,725,986
15,667,098	168,251	13,398,527	29,233,868	Germany	9,490,912		896,337	10,387,249
5,000			5,000	Ghana				-
300,000		521,550	821,550	Greece				-
20,000			20,000	Holy See			25,000	25,000
35,000			35,000	Hungary	40,000			40,000
126,872			126,872	Iceland				-
8,617			8,617	India	8,342			8,342
		20,000	20,000	Indonesia				-
3,888,714		956,520	4,845,234	Ireland	5,875,819			5,875,819
50,000			50,000	Israel				-
16,239,793	1,498,120	7,683,162	25,421,075	Italy	11,856,087	275,557		12,131,644
75,450,506	1,012,402	14,401,415	90,864,323	Japan	6,800,000	530,770	9,994,411	17,325,181
		246,445	246,445	Kuwait			450,000	450,000
		18,022	18,022	Latvia				-
30,488		62,112	92,600	Liechtenstein	29,762			29,762
		12,500	12,500	Lithuania				-
1,380,725		387,365	1,768,090	Luxembourg	1,527,513			1,527,513
20,000		66,255	86,255	Malaysia				-
103,446			103,446	Mexico				-

* 2002 Contributions include reserved pledges.

Table 2 CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES 2001-2002

Situation as at 31 March 2002

(in US Dollars)

2001					2002 *			
ANNUAL PROGRAMMES	JPO PROGRAMMES	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES	TOTAL 2001	DONOR	ANNUAL PROGRAMMES	JPO PROGRAMMES	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES	TOTAL 2002
10,000		91,827	101,827	Monaco	13,000			13,000
50,000		117,608	167,608	Morocco				-
47,368,585	996,045	9,547,632	57,912,262	Netherlands	38,698,735	821,250		39,519,985
960,150			960,150	New Zealand	754,200			754,200
40,851	98,893		139,744	Nigeria				-
30,226,672	400,593	7,426,108	38,053,373	Norway	18,763,797	177,397		18,941,194
3,220			3,220	Philippines	1,059			1,059
354,148	45,852		400,000	Portugal				-
1,100,930	92,557	516,146	1,709,633	Republic of Korea				-
200,306			200,306	Saudi Arabia				-
10,000		35,000	45,000	Singapore				-
20,000		131,658	151,658	Slovak Republic				-
100,186		300,000	400,186	South Africa				-
2,429,438	201,694	481,667	3,112,799	Spain	1,926,340	166,507		2,092,847
8,539			8,539	Sri Lanka				-
32,864,569	376,938	8,343,435	41,584,942	Sweden	34,171,328	79,977	2,815,581	37,066,886
11,593,146	196,817	1,824,690	13,614,653	Switzerland	13,010,829	130,442	2,019,524	15,160,795
				Thailand	15,000			15,000
8,253			8,253	Tunisia				-
150,000			150,000	Turkey	150,000			150,000
1,000			1,000	Uganda				-
54,000			54,000	United Arab Emirates	54,000			54,000
26,078,775	86,322	9,976,565	36,141,662	United Kingdom	18,571,429			18,571,429
210,990,368	1,700,000	32,017,334	244,707,702	United States of America	125,156,332		11,430,000	136,586,332
		1,000,000	1,000,000	Venezuela				-
2,160			2,160	Yemen Republic				-

* 2002 Contributions include reserved pledges.

Table 2 CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES 2001-2002
Situation as at 31 March 2002
(in US Dollars)

2001					2002 *			
ANNUAL PROGRAMMES	JPO PROGRAMMES	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES	TOTAL 2001	DONOR	ANNUAL PROGRAMMES	JPO PROGRAMMES	SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES	TOTAL 2002
559,491,445	9,207,577	130,972,480	699,671,502	TOTAL	303,861,238	2,673,122	28,083,062	334,617,422
				B. European Commission				
60,241,826		5,457,636	65,699,462	European Commission	13,364,513		880,282	14,244,795
60,241,826		5,457,636	65,699,462	TOTAL	13,364,513	-	880,282	14,244,795
				C. Inter-Governmental Organisations				
275,482			275,482	Council of Europe Dev Bank				
200,000			200,000	OPEC Fund				
				Organisation of African Unity	100,000			100,000
475,482	-	-	475,482	TOTAL	100,000	-	-	100,000
				D. United Nations System				
33,781			33,781	UN Population Fund				-
1,250,000			1,250,000	UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNH)				-
1,700,000			1,700,000	Int. Bank for Reconstruction & Dev.				-
2,983,781	-	-	2,983,781	TOTAL	-	-	-	-
				E. NGOs and other donors				
11,557,515		8,849,671	20,407,186	NGO and other donors	1,458,841		1,523,366	2,982,207
11,557,515		8,849,671	20,407,186	TOTAL	1,458,841	-	1,523,366	2,982,207
634,750,049	9,207,577	135,279,787	779,237,613	GRAND TOTAL	318,784,592	2,673,122	30,486,710	351,944,424

* 2002 Contributions include reserved pledges.

Table 3 **Asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to UNHCR, end-2001**

Figures are provisional and subject to change

UNHCR Regional Bureau and country of asylum[1]	Refugees[2]	Asylum-seekers[3]	Returned refugees[4]	Others of concern			Total population of concern
				Internally displaced[5]	Returned IDPs[6]	Various[7]	
Australia**	55,146	13,670	-	-	-	-	68,816
Bangladesh	22,173	21	-	-	-	-	22,194
Cambodia	50	1,051	-	-	-	-	1,101
China	295,325	1	-	-	-	-	295,326
East Timor	-	8	18,183	-	-	-	18,191
Hong Kong, China (SAR)	1,390	468	-	-	-	38	1,896
India	169,549	207	-	-	-	-	169,756
Indonesia	73,551	806	-	-	-	-	74,357
Japan	3,200	328	-	-	-	-	3,528
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Malaysia	50,466	252	-	-	-	-	50,718
Myanmar	-	-	283	-	-	-	283
Nepal	130,945	12	-	-	-	-	130,957
New Zealand**	5,264	1,917	-	-	-	-	7,181
Papua New Guinea	4,941	-	-	-	-	313	5,254
Philippines	136	41	-	-	-	2,000	2,177
Rep. of Korea	7	68	-	-	-	-	75
Singapore	2	2	-	-	-	-	4
Sri Lanka	17	30	14	683,286	-	-	683,347
Thailand	110,711	343	-	-	-	5	111,059
Viet Nam	15,945	-	-	-	-	-	15,945
Asia and Pacific	**938,818**	**19,225**	**18,481**	**683,286**	**-**	**2,356**	**1,662,166**
Afghanistan	6	-	26,092	1,200,000	-	-	1,226,098
Algeria	169,422	73	2	-	-	-	169,497
Bahrein	1	-	20	-	-	-	21
Egypt	7,230	15,655	-	-	-	-	22,885
Iraq	128,142	393	1,968	-	-	-	130,503
Islamic Rep. of Iran[10]	1,868,000	-	11	-	-	-	1,868,011
Israel	4,168	563	-	-	-	-	4,731
Jordan	1,067	5,297	-	-	-	-	6,364
Kazakhstan	19,531	12	-	-	-	100,000	119,543
Kuwait	1,255	80	-	-	-	138,000	139,335
Kyrgyzstan	9,296	470	-	-	-	-	9,766
Lebanon	2,815	3,680	-	-	-	-	6,495
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	11,664	15	-	-	-	-	11,679
Mauritania	365	26	-	-	-	29,500	29,891
Morocco	2,091	449	-	-	-	-	2,540
Occupied Palestinian Territory	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Oman	-	23	-	-	-	-	23
Pakistan[11]	2,198,797	580	2	-	-	-	2,199,379
Qatar	67	12	-	-	-	-	79
Saudi Arabia	245,268	234	-	-	-	-	245,502
Syrian Arab Rep.	3,351	605	-	-	-	-	3,956
Tajikistan	15,346	289	2,343	-	-	-	17,978
Tunisia	97	18	-	-	-	-	115
Turkmenistan	14,005	491	-	-	-	-	14,496
United Arab Emirates	556	361	-	-	-	-	917
Uzbekistan	39,579	1,344	-	-	-	-	40,923
Yemen	69,488	2,361	210	-	-	-	72,039

Table 3 **Asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to UNHCR, end-2001**

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UNHCR Regional Bureau and country of asylum[1]	Refugees[2]	Asylum-seekers[3]	Returned refugees[4]	Others of concern			Total population of concern
				Internally displaced[5]	Returned IDPs[6]	Various[7]	
Central Asia, South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East	**4,811,587**	**33,031**	**30,880**	**1,200,000**	**-**	**267,500**	**6,342,768**
Armenia	264,337	1	1	-	-	-	264,339
Austria*[8]	17,092	-	-	-	-	-	17,092
Azerbaijan	360	6,551	17	572,955	-	7,427	587,310
Belarus	584	354	-	-	-	34,567	35,505
Belgium	12,265	664	-	-	-	-	12,929
Bulgaria	3,004	1,504	-	-	-	-	4,508
Cyprus	83	1,860	-	-	-	-	1,943
Czech Rep.	1,216	11,589	-	-	-	-	12,805
Denmark*	72,649	-	-	-	-	-	72,649
Estonia	11	20	-	-	-	-	31
Finland*	12,728	-	-	-	-	-	12,728
France	131,601	34,551	-	-	-	-	166,152
Georgia	7,901	-	60	264,221	-	32	272,214
Germany	903,000	85,533	-	-	-	-	988,533
Greece	6,948	6,224	-	-	-	-	13,172
Hungary	4,710	2,398	-	-	-	-	7,108
Iceland*	213	17	-	-	-	-	230
Ireland*	3,598	10,841	-	-	-	-	14,439
Italy[8]	22,870	-	-	-	-	-	22,870
Latvia	8	1	-	-	-	1	10
Liechtenstein	141	80	-	-	-	-	221
Lithuania	287	84	-	-	-	-	371
Luxembourg	1,201	-	-	-	-	-	1,201
Malta[9]	190	-	-	-	-	-	190
Netherlands*	152,338	78,550	-	-	-	-	230,888
Norway*	50,128	-	-	-	-	-	50,128
Poland	1,311	-	-	-	-	-	1,311
Portugal[8]	410	-	-	-	-	-	410
Rep. of Moldova	159	113	-	1,000	-	3	1,275
Romania	1,805	-	-	-	-	-	1,805
Russian Federation	17,970	732	297	443,288	47,362	630,193	1,139,842
Slovakia	472	3,151	-	-	-	-	3,623
Slovenia	2,415	305	-	-	-	4,451	7,171
Spain* [9]	6,696	-	-	-	-	-	6,696
Sweden*	146,491	17,600	-	-	-	-	164,091
Switzerland	58,494	25,654	-	-	-	-	84,148
Turkey	3,472	4,176	39	-	-	-	7,687
Ukraine	2,983	183	-	-	-	6,566	9,732
United Kingdom*	148,550	39,400	-	-	-	-	187,950
Europe	**2,980,891**	**332,138**	**414**	**1,281,464**	**47,362**	**683,240**	**4,405,387**
Burundi	27,896	7,994	27,885	20,000	42,000	-	125,775
Congo	119,147	2,447	657	-	-	-	122,251
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	362,012	308	1,139	3,458	-	-	366,917
Djibouti	23,176	469	458	-	-	-	24,103
Eritrea	2,272	-	32,750	-	-	1,420	36,442
Ethiopia	152,554	3	9,365	-	-	-	161,922
Kenya	239,221	12,595	-	-	-	-	251,816
Rwanda	34,267	2,340	21,656	-	-	-	58,263

Table 3 **Asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to UNHCR, end-2001**

Figures are provisional and subject to change.

UNHCR Regional Bureau and country of asylum[1]	Refugees[2]	Asylum-seekers[3]	Returned refugees[4]	Others of concern: Internally displaced[5]	Others of concern: Returned IDPs[6]	Others of concern: Various[7]	Total population of concern
Somalia	589	60	51,331	-	-	-	51,980
Sudan	349,209	4	5,184	-	-	-	354,397
Uganda	199,736	627	155	-	-	-	200,518
United Rep. of Tanzania	668,107	21,331	2,000	-	-	-	691,438
Great Lakes Region, East and Horn of Africa	**2,178,186**	**48,178**	**152,580**	**23,458**	**42,000**	**1,420**	**2,445,822**
Albania	292	71	-	-	-	-	363
Bosnia and Herzegovina	32,744	386	18,665	438,253	80,172	-	570,220
Croatia	21,875	76	11,867	23,402	10,732	-	67,952
FYR Macedonia	4,363	54	90,012	16,371	58,153	-	168,953
Yugoslavia, FR	400,304	53	25,536	263,600	2,531	85,000	777,024
South-Eastern Europe	**459,578**	**640**	**146,080**	**741,626**	**151,588**	**85,000**	**1,584,512**
Angola	12,250	902	13,117	202,000	-	-	228,269
Botswana	3,581	721	-	-	-	-	4,302
Comoros	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
Lesotho	39	-	-	-	-	-	39
Madagascar	34	-	-	-	-	-	34
Malawi	6,200	-	-	-	-	-	6,200
Mauritius	14	-	-	-	-	-	14
Mozambique	207	5,315	-	-	-	-	5,522
Namibia	30,885	1,818	-	-	-	-	32,703
South Africa	18,605	11,417	-	-	-	-	30,022
Swaziland	690	361	-	-	-	-	1,051
Zambia	284,173	498	-	-	-	-	284,671
Zimbabwe	8,706	766	-	-	-	-	9,472
Southern Africa	**385,397**	**21,798**	**13,117**	**202,000**	**-**	**-**	**602,312**
Argentina	2,396	1,543	-	-	-	-	3,939
Belize	1,129	22	-	-	-	-	1,151
Bolivia	347	8	-	-	-	-	355
Brazil	2,884	647	-	-	-	-	3,531
Canada**	127,853	45,804	-	-	-	-	173,657
Chile	389	66	6	-	-	-	461
Colombia	210	17	162	720,000	-	-	720,389
Costa Rica	8,104	2,587	-	-	-	-	10,691
Cuba	1,036	15	1	-	-	-	1,052
Ecuador	1,957	2,472	-	-	-	-	4,429
El Salvador	69	5	-	-	-	-	74
Guatemala	729	9	1	-	-	-	739
Honduras	20	4	-	-	-	-	24
Mexico	15,455	12	-	-	-	-	15,467
Nicaragua	325	21	9	-	-	-	355
Panama	1,474	63	-	-	-	-	1,537
Paraguay	21	12	-	-	-	-	33
Peru	683	63	15	-	-	-	761
United States**	515,853	395,877	-	-	-	-	911,730
Uruguay	90	1	-	-	-	-	91
Venezuela	59	311	-	-	-	-	370
The Americas	**681,683**	**449,559**	**194**	**720,000**	**-**	**-**	**1,850,836**
Benin	4,799	226	-	-	-	-	5,025
Burkina Faso	457	250	-	-	-	-	707
Cameroon	41,186	2,577	1	-	-	-	43,764

Table 3

Asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to UNHCR, end-2001

Figures are provisional and subject to change.

UNHCR Regional Bureau and country of asylum[1]	Refugees[2]	Asylum-seekers[3]	Returned refugees[4]	Others of concern			Total population of concern
				Internally displaced[5]	Returned IDPs[6]	Various[7]	
Central African Rep.	49,239	3,672	-	-	-	-	52,911
Chad	12,950	646	3,710	-	-	-	17,306
Côte d'Ivoire	128,239	2,324	-	-	-	-	128,563
Gabon	15,581	3,636	-	-	-	-	19,217
Gambia	8,133	224	-	-	-	-	8,357
Ghana	11,792	2,397	42	-	-	-	14,231
Guinea	178,444	874	-	-	-	-	179,318
Guinea-Bissau	7,332	371	-	-	-	-	7,703
Liberia	54,760	-	2,548	196,116	-	-	253,424
Mali	8,439	804	-	-	-	-	9,243
Niger[9]	58	-	-	-	-	-	58
Nigeria	7,200	132	2	-	-	-	7,334
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Senegal	20,707	2,625	2,457	-	-	-	25,789
Sierra Leone	10,501	274	92,330	-	-	-	103,105
Togo	12,257	78	-	-	-	-	12,335
West and Central Africa	**570,074**	**21,110**	**101,092**	**196,116**	**-**	**-**	**888,382**
Various/unknown	-	-	22	-	-	-	22
Total	**12,065,414**	**925,677**	**462,608**	**5,047,950**	**240,950**	**1,039,516**	**19,782,115**

Notes

The data are generally provided by Governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection.

A dash (-) indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable.

[1] Country or territory of asylum or residence.

[2] Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a humanitarian status and those granted temporary protection (see also Table 4).

[3] Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending in the asylum procedure or who are otherwise registered as asylum-seekers. In countries with various stages in the asylum procedure, a case (person, family) may have been counted more than once (see also Table 12).

[4] Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during the year. See Table 4 (voluntary repatriation) and Table 8 (returning refugees).

[5] Persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance, generally pursuant to a special request by a competent organ of the United Nations (see also Table 15).

[6] IDPs of concern to UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during the year (see also Table 15).

[7] Including "forced migrants" in the Russian Federation (512,300), stateless persons in Belarus (19,000), stateless ethnic Kazakhs in Kazakhstan (100,000), Afghan asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation (100,000, UNHCR estimate), stateless Bedoons in Kuwait (117,000), Maliens and Sahrawis in Mauritania (29,500), asylum-seekers in Belarus registered with UNHCR (15,500) and local residents at risk in the FR of Yugoslavia (86,000).

[8] Refers to end-1999.

[9] Refers to end-2000.

[10] According to the Government, the number of Afghans is estimated to be some 2.3 million.

[11] According to the Government, the number of Afghans is estimated to be some 3.3 million.

* In the absence of reliable Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population based on refugee arrivals and asylum-seeker recognition over a 10-year period.

** In the absence of reliable Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population based on refugee arrivals and asylum-seeker recognition over a 5-year period.

Source: UNHCR/Governments. Compiled by: UNHCR, Population Data Unit, PGDS.

Table 4 **Key indicators of host country capacity in developing countries**

40 largest developing countries hosting asylum-seekers, refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR

Developing country	Population of concern to UNHCR end-2001 (x 1,000)	2000 national population (x 1,000)	2000 Gross Domestic Product (x 1 mln. USD)	GDP per capita	Ratio population of concern to GDP per capita[1]
Pakistan	2,199.4	141,256.2	61,638	436.4	5,040.3
Islamic Rep. of Iran	1,868.0	70,330.1	104,904	1,491.6	1,252.4
Afghanistan	1,226.1	21,765.0	..	-	..
Colombia	720.4	42,104.7	81,283	1,930.5	373.2
United Rep. of Tanzania	691.4	35,119.3	9,027	257.0	2,690.0
Sri Lanka	683.3	18,923.7	16,305	861.6	793.1
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	366.9	50,948.2	5,584	109.6	3,347.7
Sudan	354.4	31,095.2	11,516	370.3	956.9
China	295.3	1,275,132.9	1,079,948	846.9	348.7
Zambia	284.7	10,421.3	2,911	279.3	1,019.1
Armenia	264.3	3,787.0	1,914	505.4	523.0
Liberia	253.4	2,913.1	..	-	..
Kenya	251.8	30,668.7	10,357	337.7	745.7
Saudi Arabia	245.5	20,346.2	173,287	8,516.9	28.8
Angola	228.3	13,134.5	8,828	672.1	339.6
Uganda	200.5	23,300.2	6,170	264.8	757.2
Guinea	179.3	8,154.3	3,012	369.4	485.5
India	169.8	1,008,937.4	456,990	452.9	374.8
Algeria	169.5	30,291.3	53,306	1,759.8	96.3
Ethiopia	161.9	62,907.8	6,391	101.6	1,593.8
Kuwait	139.3	1,914.4	37,783	19,736.2	7.1
Nepal	131.0	23,042.7	5,497	238.6	549.0
Iraq	130.5	22,946.2	..	-	..
Côte d'Ivoire	128.6	16,013.1	9,370	585.1	219.7
Burundi	125.8	6,356.3	689	108.4	1,160.3
Congo	122.3	3,018.4	3,215	1,065.1	114.8
Thailand	111.1	62,805.6	122,166	1,945.1	57.1
Sierra Leone	103.1	4,404.7	636	144.4	714.1
Indonesia	74.4	212,092.0	153,255	722.6	102.9
Yemen	72.0	18,348.7	8,532	465.0	154.9
Rwanda	58.3	7,608.9	1,794	235.8	247.1
Central African Rep.	52.9	3,717.3	963	259.1	204.2
Somalia	52.0	8,777.9	..	-	..
Malaysia	50.7	22,218.5	89,659	4,035.3	12.6
Cameroon	43.8	14,875.5	8,879	596.9	73.3
Eritrea	36.4	3,658.8	608	166.2	219.3
Namibia	32.7	1,756.6	3,479	1,980.5	16.5
South Africa	30.0	43,309.2	125,887	2,906.7	10.3
Mauritania	29.9	2,664.5	935	350.9	85.2
Senegal	25.8	9,420.5	4,371	464.0	55.6

[1] Number of persons of concern to UNHCR per 1 USD GDP per capita.

Sources: UNDP, World Bank, United Nations Population Division, UNHCR.

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Corrigendum

Page 1, footnote 2

The footnote reference should read

"General Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950"

Page 24, paragraph 82, third line

Line 3 should read

"…totalled some 42,000 in 2001, 38 percent more than in 2000."

Page 25, paragraph 88

Lines 5 to 11 should read

"In 2001, 75,000 persons from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became internally displaced, and 93,000 crossed the border into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, triggering an emergency deployment by UNHCR. However, negotiations at the political level, and confidence-building measures in which UNHCR played an important role, contributed towards restoring peace. By year's end, some 80 percent of the refugees and IDPs had returned to their homes, decreasing the refugee population by some 90,000."

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report updates the Economic and Social Council on actions undertaken by the regional commissions during the period under review with respect to the guidance given in annex III of Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998. Among the several issues, a review of preparatory and follow-up activities to world conferences and other major events implemented during the period between the Council's substantive sessions of 2001 and 2002 is contained in addendum 1 (E/2002/15/Add.1); a review of the regional commissions' cooperation with other regional bodies is contained in addendum 2 (E/2002/15/Add.2); and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the regional commissions during spring 2002 that require action by the Council or are brought to its attention are contained in addendum 3 (E/2002/15/Add.3). In addition, in accordance with Council decision 2002/204 of 13 February 2002, the report explores in section II the theme for the regional cooperation item at the Council's substantive session of 2002, which is "Interregional cooperation for sustainable development: regional challenges ahead". Finally, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV), the report of the Executive Secretaries, which focuses on the regional perspectives on financing for development and other areas of concern to the regional commissions, is contained in section IV.

* E/2002/100 and Add.1.

** The document was submitted late to the conference services owing to the need for extensive consultations.

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The summaries of the economic surveys of the five regions have been made available to the Economic and Social Council (see E/2002/16-20). The annual reports of the regional commissions are provided as background information, as they contain issues relevant to the subject matter that is addressed in the report and its addenda. They are issued as supplements to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

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Introduction

1. Since the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 entitled "Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", annex III of which concerns the reform of the regional commissions, the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation has attempted to engage the Council in a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries on the dual role of the commissions as "outposts of the United Nations" and "the regional expression of the Organization in their respective regions". The Council for its part has encouraged this dialogue. Beginning with its substantive session of 2001, the informal dialogue between Member States and the Executive Secretaries has been set to concentrate on the theme chosen by the Council for interregional cooperation. In 2001, the informal discussions focused on regional perspectives on globalization. In 2002, they will focus on interregional cooperation for sustainable development and the regional challenges ahead.

2. During the formal consideration of the regional cooperation item by the Council, Member States often raise questions on the economic and social situation in the regions and on the policy advice contained in the summaries of the regional surveys on emerging and/or persistent development issues and how the regional perspectives contribute to the global dialogue on the related issues. The activities of the regional commissions are also reviewed at times within the compass of the overall activities of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. While this constitutes a definite improvement in the substantive interaction between the Council and the Executive Secretaries, the Council may wish to further review developments, including the response of the commissions and their partners within the United Nations system to the requests contained in resolution 1998/46, annex III, and may wish to explore further with the Executive Secretaries such issues as:

- How well the regional perspectives contribute to global dialogue on development issues;
- The extent of effective cooperation between the regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes, especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with regard to its regional and subregional activities;
- In light of the need to provide coherent support at the regional level to the implementation of the millennium development goals, whether there is a need for further measures to strengthen the regional coordination meetings while maintaining their practical structures as at present;
- Whether achieving strong collaboration between the commissions and non-United Nations regional and subregional organizations requires more cohesive mandates emanating from their respective intergovernmental bodies.

3. In light of the contribution that the regional commissions can make to conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, particularly inasmuch as they have a mandate to strengthen the economic and social development of their member States and to warn of any imminent threats in this regard, it would seem necessary that their analyses and policy recommendations be utilized not only by the United Nations but also by partner regional organizations active in the area of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and development. In addition, the commissions can provide technical assistance for reconstruction based on development strategies that are accepted by Governments and civil society. These are among the issues that have been raised in the report of the Executive Secretaries contained in section IV of the present report.

I. Recent developments, including follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46

4. Given their dual role, the regional commissions are able to bring global concerns to their respective regions and regional perspectives to global debates.

A. The regional commissions as the regional expression of the United Nations

1. Significant substantive issues discussed at the commissions' sessions or at other forums in 2002, in light of emerging regional issues and priorities and as regional follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration

5. Globalization is leading to a widening gap between rich and poor in nearly all nations and between the least and the most developed countries. Yet globalization also generates important opportunities and gains as long as conditions are met to make it an engine for development. Against the background of risks of seclusion from the development process and against threats to stability and security, the commissions are fully engaged in developing regional perspectives on these issues. These are well illustrated in the recent regional debates organized by the commissions.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

6. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) addressed two major cross-cutting issues of strategic relevance in relation to the need to better focus and adjust the ongoing activities in the programme of work in the light of the United Nations Millennium Declaration commitments:[1] (a) the labour-market challenges in the ECE region; and (b) the economic aspects of security in Europe.

7. The issues of employment and social policy have many relevant linkages with the priorities and activities of ECE and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies (PSBs). On the demand side, industrial restructuring, financing for development, enterprise development, and economic reforms are closely linked to the effectiveness of labour-market arrangements and social policies. ECE intends to focus more in the future on the social aspects of transition, including the need to address the increasing inequalities and poverty, particularly in the weaker economies in transition. On the supply side, sociodemographic change has had a remarkable impact on the economies and societies of ECE countries. The issues of ageing in Western Europe and the transition economies have been widely discussed. ECE will hold a Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin in September 2002, in which there will be defined a regional strategy for implementation of the international plan of action on ageing, 2002, decided in Madrid at the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

8. The discussion at the annual session involved the major organizations active in this area at the regional level, particularly the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, UNDP and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Coordination and cooperation between ECE and these other organizations are crucial to the effective delivery of policy results in line with what was envisaged and resolved at the Millennium Summit. The state of coordination was reviewed and analysed with strong inputs and guidance coming from member countries.

9. The discussion also aimed at identifying concrete cases of best practices and useful policy lessons to be learned from the various country experiences in the region. Also interesting was the significant experience that has been drawn from the countries in transition that find themselves at an advanced stage of the process of accession to the European Union (EU), such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The question of how to transfer know-how and assist the countries in the troubled regions of South-Eastern Europe, or the Southern Caucasus or Central Asia, was also considered.

10. The discussion on the economic aspects of security in Europe aimed at consolidating an integrated approach to security and development. The complex and multiple links between sustainable development and security were analysed in various ways in the sectoral work of ECE. In particular, security in transport and the environment, energy security, and trade and security were touched upon by the PSBs. The discussion at the annual session aimed at bringing together this set of activities within a common approach, with a view to mainstreaming the security concerns and the objectives of peace-building and conflict prevention into the activities of ECE. Collaboration on this issue with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the European Commission, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other United Nations bodies, like the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), is of fundamental importance. The occasion, therefore, was particularly important for

reviewing the state of progress in the coordination at the regional level in respect of the economic dimension of security, and for establishing common priorities for future work in line with the millennium development goals.

11. The third most important issue dealt with at the annual session was the discussion about reform in ECE, with the importance of strengthened policy analysis and focus in the sectoral work being emphasized, as well as the cross-sectoral integration of the policy perspectives. The need to extend the reach of policy dialogue to cover the major social issues and challenges facing the region, and particularly the weaker countries in transition, was also given high prominence.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

12. The theme topic of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was "Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options". A study prepared for the session noted that, while economic growth in the region had contributed to a reduction in the percentage of the population living in absolute poverty, two thirds of the world's poor lived in Asia and the Pacific. This implied that policies to reduce poverty had been inadequate and not fully effective. Sustainable growth was found to be constrained by rising inequality. Poverty is better measured in terms of achievements in education, health care, nutrition, employment opportunity and access to sanitation and safe water than by income alone, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration had stressed these aspects of social development. Employment has expanded rapidly in countries in the region that have followed a strategy of manufacturing for export, with steady movement to higher levels of technology, but has grown no faster than the total population in many parts of the region, notably South Asia. Further programmes need to be targeted to the situation of women who are disproportionately affected by poverty because of the number of female-headed households and because of unequal access to resources within and outside the households. Many countries in the ESCAP region discovered, following the 1997-1998 financial crisis, that their lack of proper social protection systems has made their working populations vulnerable to excessive risk, increased the incidence of poverty and undermined their longer-term human capital investment efforts.

13. The study also indicated that the cause of sustainable social development, particularly social integration and mobilization will be greatly enhanced through participatory processes in national and subnational decision-making. However, decentralization processes must incorporate a system of accountability that relies on public and transparent information, which enables the community to monitor effectively the performance of local government.

14. The Commission, at its fifty-eighth session, also considered emerging issues of importance to regional trade. It recognized that the Doha Development Agenda and future negotiations would form a principal focus of member countries' international economic policy for several years to come and that negotiations have been launched on a variety of issues that bring to the fore complex and deep implications for the global and regional trading regimes. In this context, regionalism will continue to play an important role in furthering the region's trade and investment opportunities and growth prospects. The Commission endorsed the planned technical cooperation and capacity-building activities of ESCAP and welcomed enhanced collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization in their implementation.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

15. Globalization and development were the main theme for the twenty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The report on the topic states that the globalization process clearly opens up opportunities for development, and national strategies should be designed to take advantage of the potential and meet the requirements associated with greater integration into the world economy. This process, however, entails risks generated by new sources of instability in trade flows and, especially, finance; the risk that countries unprepared for the formidable demands of competitiveness in today's world may be excluded from the process; and the risk of an exacerbation of the structural heterogeneity existing among producers, social sectors and regions within countries whose

linkages with the world economy are segmented and marginal in nature.

16. Many of these risks are associated with two disturbing aspects of the globalization process, namely, the asymmetric level of mobility between factors and the incomplete nature of the international agenda that accompanies the globalization process. The report also examines an important dimension of the globalization process which is the gradual spread of ideas and values with regard to civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. These ideas and values are gradually laying the foundations for the concept of global citizenship. Under its founding Charter, and ever since its inception, the United Nations has reaffirmed these global ideas and values which have subsequently been ratified by Governments at a series of world summits.

17. The first part of the study analyses globalization from an integral standpoint. As part of an exploration of the multidimensional nature of globalization, it places the current phase of this process within the historical context of the world economy's progressive internationalization and explores its social, political and cultural components. Trends in income inequality and the fundamental asymmetries of the global order are also examined prior to presenting a proposal for a positive agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean in the global era. The point of departure for this proposal is the recognition that Latin America and the Caribbean must adopt a proactive agenda for building a new international order and must be effectively committed to that agenda. It defines four basic principles: shared objectives, rules and institutions that respect diversity, complementarity among national, regional and international governance structures and equitable participation under appropriate rules of international governance. The national component of this agenda focuses on the issues of macroeconomic stability in a broad sense, creation of systemic competitiveness, environmental sustainability and active social policies. A key dual role is assigned to the regional component, which provides a forum for harmonizing and implementing policies and initiatives and acts as an intermediate level of organization for raising the profile of the region's participation in multilateral forums. The international component of the agenda is structured around the following issues: provision of global public goods, correction of asymmetries in the international order (in the financial and macroeconomic areas, in production and technology and in factor mobility) and consolidation of a rights-based international social agenda.

18. The second part of the study focuses on specific issues: external vulnerability and macroeconomic policy; the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean in global trade and production circuits; strengthening innovation systems and technological development; international migration; environmental sustainability; and globalization and social development and the effects of globalization on the Caribbean economies. Following a brief diagnosis of the main problems in each of these areas, recommendations are made concerning a series of measures that can be taken at the national, regional and international levels in order to implement the proposal put forward in the first part of the document.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

19. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) established the African Development Forum (ADF) in 1999 to advance dialogue on the critical issues confronting the continent. Since its inception, ADF has been recognized as an effective forum for informed dialogue and consensus-building on development issues relevant to Africa, and for agreeing on implementation priorities and strategies at national, subregional and regional levels.

20. The theme for ADF III was "Defining priorities for regional integration" and its overriding objective was to contribute to the major collective endeavour to establish the African Union (AU), in concordance with the clear directives issued by African Heads of State and Government, meeting at the thirty-seventh ordinary session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001. The Constitutive Act of the African Union calls for economic and monetary union, which is imperative if Africa is to achieve accelerated development.

21. ADF III focused on three major sub-themes: (a) history of, and prospects and challenges for, regional integration in Africa; (b) assessment of regional integration in Africa; and (c) policies for accelerating regional integration. The Forum reflected on the experience in Africa as well as other regions with regional integration; identified the priorities and policy options for accelerating regional integration in

Africa; and elaborated on the necessary steps for economic and monetary union in the African setting.

22. The coming into force of the Constitutive Act of the African Union provides a timely opportunity to focus on what further steps need to be taken institutionally and at the policy level to harmonize and accelerate regional integration efforts in Africa. By defining the priorities and strategic policy options, ADF III aimed to energize and define steps towards accelerating and monitoring the process of regional integration in critical areas, and to inform and add value to the ongoing processes towards an African economic and monetary union.

23. The Forum adopted a consensus statement on regional integration and the way ahead, which will be forwarded to the Inaugural Summit of AU in Pretoria, South Africa, in July 2002. The consensus statement: (a) recommended that priority be given for civil society participation in AU, with annual meetings of civil society to be convened prior to the AU summit; (b) recommended that Africa take rapid, sequenced, realistic and irreversible steps towards accelerated integration; (c) considered that countries will have to cede some sovereignty in economic policy-making for collective interest; (d) recommended that AU should commission an ECA report and recommendations on how to rationalize the proliferation of regional economic communities (RECs); (e) recommended that countries should put in place mechanisms to implement the Abuja commitments on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); (f) recommended that regional negotiation capacity should be strengthened to enable Africa to effectively participate in the global trading system; (g) recommended that AU should seek to accelerate the resolution of conflicts and to facilitate the establishment of capable Governments that can ensure peace and security in conflict-stricken countries; (h) recommended that all human rights instruments adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and ratified by member States should be incorporated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as integral parts of AU; (i) recommended that Africa should strengthen the basic principle of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, namely, the suspension of Governments that come to power through unconstitutional means from participation in the activities of the Union; (j) considered that the sequencing of the establishment of institutions of AU requires careful attention; (k) recommended that AU should investigate new mechanisms for financing to avoid complete dependence on the dues of member States; and (l) recommended that, if the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is to succeed, a forum for engagement with Africa's elected representatives through the mechanism of the African Parliamentary Union should be established.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

24. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) called for a special session on 11 March 2002 to apprise its member States of follow-up action to the recommendation of the twenty-first session of the Commission for ESCWA secretariat activities to focus on a limited number of priorities, with special attention to Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration. This recommendation, along with the need to observe the guiding principles of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, had led to programmatic priority-setting and restructuring of the secretariat.

25. The two principal documents that reflected these programmatic and structural changes, the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and the revised programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, were discussed and endorsed by the session. The new overall orientation of ESCWA activities is towards nurturing a comprehensive, integrated, equitable and sustainable economic and social development, at both the national and regional levels, that would ultimately allow the countries of the region to effectively manage the rapidly changing economic world environment and enhance the quality of life for the people. To this end, the ESCWA refocused programme will stimulate regional cooperation and integration by providing support to member countries in formulating regional programmes, mechanisms and solutions in both the economic and social fields that would assist in achieving synergies and common positions and therefore facilitating both regional integration and a balanced integration into the world economy while taking into consideration national, regional and global concerns.

26. The member States of ESCWA endorsed the six subprogrammes or multisectoral areas of major concern to which the commission would direct its intellectual thought and resources. These are: (a) integrated

policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development, which are to have a positive impact on regional integration and cooperation among ESCWA member countries, based on a concerted approach to integrated sustainable management of water and energy and the production sectors; (b) integrated social policies to achieve regional cooperation in the advocacy and promotion of comprehensive and integrated social policies that are region-specific and culturally sensitive and that have a practical orientation; (c) economic analysis and forecasting for regional development to strengthen the capacity of member countries to coordinate their economic policies and achieve economic development by providing quantitative assessment of economic and financial data and trends; (d) regional integration in responding to globalization to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital in order to meet the challenges posed by the trend towards globalization; (e) information and communication technologies for regional integration to increase the capabilities of member countries to harness ICT for their development; and (f) comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making to improve the statistical capabilities of countries in the region for informed decision-making and improve the availability and timeliness of comparable statistical information.

27. The main elements of the new strategy to be pursued by ESCWA for addressing these main regional concerns reside in the following: (a) assisting member countries in coping with multidimensional requirements of globalization through fostering competitiveness, based in economic efficiency and the acquisition of the requisite technological skills; (b) serving as a platform for networking and exchange of experiences and best practices among member countries, among all actors in the development process and, in particular, civil society institutions, in support of transparent governance, and among the United Nations agencies with a regional mandate; (c) advocating a multisectoral approach in addressing issues of common programmatic concern, chiefly poverty reduction, gender mainstreaming, least advantaged groups, acquisition of ICT, transparent governance and partnership with civil society institutions, popular participation and issues related to the environment; (d) advising member countries on the integration of the human and social dimensions of development into their policies by focusing on capacity-building with regard to human resources; proposing mechanisms through which to identify the specifications and qualifications required of human resources that would enable member countries to become the driving force of social and economic development; and providing appropriate training and technical assistance in relevant fields; (e) providing assistance in producing and/or generating reliable, customized, harmonized regional data and indicators compatible with internationally recognized statistical standards, as a tool for sound analysis and judicious policy formulation; and assisting in data collection, research and analysis, and monitoring trends; and (f) providing continued support to the least developed member country (Yemen) and other countries with special needs, in particular in terms of promoting post-conflict development and reconstruction in ESCWA member countries that have witnessed war and civil strife.

2. Regional preparatory activities and follow-up to world conferences and other global meetings

28. The regional commissions bring to their respective regions international commitments and programmes. As forums for articulating regional perspectives on global and regional issues, they bring valuable inputs to global debates, inter alia, on the development goals and objectives of world conferences. (For the commissions' activities undertaken for specific world conferences and global meetings, see E/2002/15/Add.1.)

3. Improved coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies at the regional level: meetings chaired by the Executive Secretaries in the five regions

29. Yearly inter-agency coordination meetings are held by the regional commissions in response to the request contained in annex III of Council resolution 1998/46. The objective of these meetings is to achieve greater coherence among the activities of the United Nations system at the regional level. In developing a strategy for a system-wide support to the millennium declaration goals, these regional mechanisms will have to be fully utilized for ensuring a coordinated and coherent support to the implementation of these goals at the regional level.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

30. The second Regional Coordination Meeting for the ECE region held in 2001 achieved a common understanding of the major challenges for countries with economies in transition and identified three themes that, within the broad priorities of agencies active in the region, call for an enhanced exchange of information and cooperation. These are: social data and benchmarking; gender and economy; and ICT.

31. The third Regional Coordination Meeting for the ECE region, to be held in late 2002, will review the new developments in countries of Eastern and Central Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries and it is expected to focus on two priority areas that are of high relevance to the region and where all agencies can make a further contribution in their respective and complementary areas of competence, namely: (a) the economic and social aspects of security in Europe, in particular the promotion of human security as a way to build up cohesive societies and prevent tensions or conflicts in the region; and (b) a regional process for the follow-up and monitoring of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

32. The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) operated actively in the form of quarterly Heads of Agency Meetings (HoAM)/RCM with 11 thematic working groups (including a newly created working group on ICT) and two committees, on administrative management and security and on programme review and coordination. The HoAM/RCM were co-chaired by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the United Nations resident coordinator in Thailand. Over the past year, each of the HoAM/RCM reviewed a variety of matters of common interest on the basis of the reports of the thematic working groups. It also discussed such issues as terrorism and its implications for the United Nations system, cooperative arrangements with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), placement of a human rights adviser for United Nations agencies, and upgrading of a common database.

33. Closer cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions, ADB and other regional organizations such as Asia-Pacific Telecommunity was one of the most important issues tackled. Concrete initiatives taken included ways to improve complementarity of the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy with the common country assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF); a special agreement for direct engagement of United Nations agencies by ADB as partners, rather than as contractors, in its projects; the introduction of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity into the RCM as a regular member; and the assistance to be provided to the United Nations agencies in Thailand by the human rights adviser placed at ESCAP.

34. The 11 thematic working groups met more than 40 times in total over the past one and a half years. ESCAP chaired or co-chaired the thematic working groups on women's empowerment and gender equality, disability-related concerns, poverty alleviation, rural development and food security, governance and human rights, environment and development, follow-up to the World Summit for Sustainable Development, education for all, and ICT. The group as a whole reflected a "Bangkok consensus" in terms of the priorities for the region. Recently, a sunset clause was introduced with a view to making the working groups remain relevant to current needs.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

35. In follow-up to the agreements of the Second United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting held in 2000, ECLAC convened the first United Nations Inter-Agency Technical Coordination Meeting on Regional Statistical Information, which took place at ECLAC headquarters on 8 May 2001. The goals of the meeting were the exchange of ideas, consensus-building and the identification of short- and medium-term actions that would give rise to a gradual harmonization and rationalization of the statistical management activities that are carried out in the region both by United Nations organizations and by regional and sectoral bodies dealing with statistics. In addition to the relevant agencies, participants included representatives of regional and subregional organizations that play an important role in the collection, management and dissemination of statistical information in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants agreed on the need to improve coordination among the different international and regional organizations so as to reduce the additional workload on the national offices responsible for

assisting the international organizations and avoid the confusion derived from the dissemination of what were sometimes inconsistent indicators.

36. ECLAC offered to compile an inventory of statistical information collection and dissemination activities carried out by international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions. It was also agreed that a greater exchange of information among international organizations and bodies would be encouraged in order to create a greater awareness of the activities that each of them was conducting in the region.

37. ECLAC developed a system for monitoring the progress made by countries in achieving the goals and objectives agreed to at the various United Nations summits and conferences. The system also serves to list the contributions and activities of all United Nations agencies and bodies working in the region, for the purpose of disseminating information on regional activities in follow-up to world summits. The system was welcomed by the agencies that had already began appointing the focal points who will be in charge of including their contributions to a given international conference or summit meeting through the system's decentralized management module.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

38. The third annual regional consultative meeting of United Nations agencies working in Africa was convened at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 October 2001. The meeting was convened against the backdrop of several important policy developments, including the adoption of a comprehensive recovery plan known as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by the Summit of OAU Heads of State and Government in Lusaka in July 2001. Thus, the consultative meeting provided a forum for discussing and achieving a common vision of how United Nations system agencies, working within a coherent and collaborative framework, could best support NEPAD. In this regard, the meeting underlined the need to support the regional consultation process to enable it to respond appropriately to the new challenges confronting Africa as identified in NEPAD.

39. The consultations examined two main issues: lessons of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa for implementing NEPAD, and promoting a coordinated and coherent response by the United Nations system in its implementation. Six thematic areas under NEPAD were identified for collaboration among agencies under which breakout sessions were held. These were: infrastructure; human resource development, including education skills development, reversing the brain drain, and health; macroeconomic policies, trade and diversification; information and communication technology; agriculture and environment; and population and employment. An additional area on humanitarian and refugee concerns was identified by agencies and subsequently included as the subject of a breakout session. The discussions at the breakout sessions took into consideration cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, capacity-building, policy focus and programmatic priorities, regional approaches and partnership arrangements.

40. In discussing past initiatives in support of Africa's development, the meeting observed that many of those initiatives had been externally led and driven. Moreover, United Nations initiatives like the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[2] and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa had lacked the mechanisms for harmonizing with other initiatives or programmes, and this led many United Nations agencies and African Governments to pay little regard to them in their activities. Nevertheless, agencies agreed that the objectives of supporting Africa-determined priorities and bringing coherence into the United Nations system's work in Africa are still valid and that there are important lessons to be drawn from that experience in support of NEPAD. These include: the clustering arrangement of agencies with strong commitment by lead and co-lead agencies; the development of a modality for cooperation; the availability of seed money; a mechanism for follow-up including a framework for reporting; and a proactive secretariat to facilitate the work of the agencies.

41. The seven breakout sessions met during the consultations and identified the lead agencies that would coordinate the collective work of each group around the seven thematic clusters. The groups identified priority areas for collaboration and agreed to meet periodically to exchange information and enhance cooperation.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

42. Owing to its preoccupation with restructuring, ESCWA expects to hold its regional inter-agency meeting in late 2002.

4. Economic and social dimensions of peace-building: regional perspectives and the role of the regional commissions

43. There is a growing realization that the root causes of conflicts are manifold, and include economic and social disparity and weak or ineffective governance structures. Further, chronic poverty and inadequate institutional capacities can germinate conflicts, on the one hand, and hinder post-conflict peace-building as well as prevention efforts, on the other. The fact that conflict prevention, peace-building and reconstruction efforts therefore increasingly follow multidisciplinary strategies has prompted member States to increasingly place demands on the capacities of the regional commissions, in accordance with their respective mandates. This has led to a further strengthening of the cooperative relationship with relevant regional organizations in their respective regions (see addendum 2 to this report).

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

44. During the period under review, ECE and OSCE jointly organized, in November 2001, a colloquium at Villars, Switzerland, on the role of the economic dimension in conflict prevention in Europe, which brought together more than 50 experts from NATO, EU, and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as the private sector and the governmental institutions of member States. The colloquium resulted in important findings and concrete recommendations on further work and joint activities. It led to an understanding with regard to holding regular informal meetings among the experts from the ECE, OSCE, EU and NATO secretariats (Villars Group) in order to regularly exchange experiences, knowledge and views on the economic dimension of conflicts. Also, a new initiative was born at the Villars colloquium — an initiative to create a Public-Private Partnership for Peace within the framework of the ECE Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Alliance.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

45. ESCAP has undertaken need assessment missions in Cambodia and Myanmar. In the context of the Greater Mekong Subregion development initiative, ESCAP and ADB cooperated during the period in organizing seminars on investment promotion and promotion of economic corridors. ESCAP is also poised to assist in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

46. ECLAC carried out a technical study, at the request of the Governments of Chile and Argentina, on the "Common standardized methodology for measuring defence spending", which was presented to the Fourth Consultative Meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the two countries, held in August 2001. The standardization model establishes a progressive sequence of levels for measuring defence spending, including basic, extended (which encompasses pensions expenditure by the armed forces) and total, which also takes in certain expenditures of other defence industries and activities. By way of example, ECLAC provided a comparison exercise for the period 1996-1998, which was based on qualitative and quantitative data from the two countries. The work of ECLAC in this respect is considered a pioneering initiative for the region, as led by two neighbouring countries, and as part of a set of measures to improve transparency and mutual trust.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

47. ECA followed up further on the Mano River Basin Initiative, to address the subregional dimensions of post-conflict reconstruction and development in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, by focusing on development activities. The ECA subregional development centre for West Africa, based in Niamey, the Niger, organized consultations with focal points from the Governments of the three countries in July 2001 to pursue the implementation of the strategy adopted earlier for the revitalization of the Mano River Union (MRU). That strategy involves: (a) immediate reactivation of the MRU secretariat; (b) institutionalization of confidence-building, security and stability measures; and (c) resumption of activities in all areas of cooperation, including infrastructure

development and trade. The project also includes fostering networking among Governments, civil society and the media. ECA also organized a consultative meeting of the inter-agency working group of the United Nations partners, which was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in March 2002.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

48. ESCWA has been assisting Lebanon in developing and reconstructing areas and cities that were devastated during the Lebanese civil war, with a view to making them all socially inclusive and attempting to bridge the gap between economic and social development. Furthermore, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 237 (XXI) on the rehabilitation of the economic sectors in Palestine, adopted in May 2001, ESCWA will take practical measures in the course of the biennium 2002-2003 to assist Palestine in rehabilitating its economic sectors. Notably, in its revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, ESCWA has introduced promoting post-conflict development as one of its development strategies.

5. Cooperation with other regional bodies

49. The regional commissions intensified their cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies in their respective regions. The regional preparatory meetings for the global conferences on financing for development and sustainable development, undertaken by the five regional commissions during the period under review, demonstrate very clearly this close collaboration. Coordination between the commissions and other regional organizations is based on the need to have a common strategy for regional issues and problems; a division of labour predicated on recognized comparative advantage and expertise; and the need to pool limited resources for their efficient use and impact. (See E/2002/15/Add.2 for the details on cooperation between the commissions and regional and subregional bodies.)

B. The regional commissions as outposts of the United Nations

50. In line with Council resolution 1998/46, annex III, the regional commissions continue to actively participate in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. They also cooperate actively with other relevant entities in the economic and social sectors, namely, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNDP.

1. Participation in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group and the role of the commissions in the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework

(a) Participation in the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs

51. The Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions continued their active participation in the meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. The regional commissions, UNCTAD and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in effect constitute the core group of the Executive Committee. During the period under review, the commissions updated the Executive Committee on the results of the regional preparatory meetings for the International Conference on Financing for Development and for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The commissions also exchanged views with UNCTAD and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and discussed their regional activities in support of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force. As decided by the Executive Committee, the commissions prepared background documents to the high-Level dialogue at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly on globalization and interdependence (Assembly resolution 55/212). They also submitted their inputs along with the other members of the Executive Committee to the "road map" that the Assembly, in its resolution 55/162, had requested the Secretary-General to prepare towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration within the United Nations system and to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

(b) Participation in the United Nations Development Group

52. The main conclusion of the five regional workshops, organized by the regional commissions in cooperation with the Development Group Office of the United Nations Development Group (DGO/UNDG) during the year 2000, was that the commissions could contribute to the CCA/UNDAF processes in their respective regions on: a conceptual framework on social and economic issues facing the region; comparative policy studies for implementation; and analyses of development issues requiring regional and subregional approaches as well as country-specific information, statistical data and social indicators. In the follow-up to the CCA/UNDAF workshops, most of the commissions experienced some improvements in their involvement in preparation of the CCA and the UNDAF, although more is expected to be accomplished.

53. ECE participated actively in the CCA/UNDAF workshop held in Minsk in March 2001, which provided an opportunity to expose the six Central European transition countries to its relevant services. ECE also reviewed online, and offered comments on, some of the draft CCA/UNDAF and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) documents. ESCAP contributed to the preparation of the CCA/UNDAF for Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic and, through its Pacific Operation Centre in Vanuatu (ESCAP/POC), provided specific inputs to the CCA/UNDAF exercise in Papua New Guinea. In cooperation with UNDP Thailand, ESCAP was actively involved in the work of the various focus groups relating to environment, poverty, inequality and disparity reduction and governance which resulted in the inclusion of two activities in the country UNDAF, namely, the human dignity initiative: community-based safety nets as tools for human resource development; and strengthening women's participation in urban local governments. Further, at the end of 2001, UNDP/Thailand sponsored one ESCAP staff to be trained at the United Nations System Staff College as a CCA/UNDAF resource person, who would then be available to assist in the CCA/UNDAF training activities in the region. Through its subregional office in Mexico City, ECLAC was involved during 2001 in the preparation of the CCA and the UNDAF in Mexico, Honduras and Panama. The contribution of ECLAC to the preparation of the CCA for Honduras during 2001 was presented at the workshop as an example of good practice. ECA, in response to requests from its member States to create a forum for systematic exchange of experience and best practices on the PRSP process, has established a PRSP Learning Group. The first meeting of the Group, which was held in Addis Ababa on 5 and 6 November 2001, brought together senior policy makers, civil society representatives and experts from nine African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania) as well as representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNDP. The meeting, inter alia, identified best practices to be replicated in the other African countries, and proposed strategies to be adopted by those countries in transforming the new partnership envisaged in NEPAD, using the instrumentality of the PRSP. ESCWA has been involved in the UNDAF preparation process in Lebanon and has also offered its services to the resident coordinators in the other ESCWA member countries for preparation of the CCA/UNDAF.

54. The brief experience has shown that the resource constraints, both human and financial, imposed limitations on the widening of involvement of the regional commissions in the CCA and UNDAF processes. Overcoming these limitations could be possible only with the active interest of the resident coordinators. For an effective implementation of paragraph 88 of General Assembly resolution 56/201 in the period ahead and in view of the decision by UNDG to include among its priorities for 2002 the promotion of systematic collaboration at regional level in the CCA/UNDAF processes, it is imperative that both the regional commissions and the resident coordinators be more proactive in ensuring the reflection of the regional dimension of development in the country-specific processes of the CCA and the UNDAF. This is also necessary in the context of the United Nations system's response to the effective implementation of the millennium development goals.

2. Cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(a) Cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

55. Beyond the joint activities in the preparation for and follow-up to global conferences, particularly the three conferences of 2002 on financing for development, sustainable development and ageing, the regional commissions have continued their close collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in various areas including social policy, public administration, statistics, population and gender. Other ongoing collaborative activities included the commissions' support at the regional level to the work of the ICT Task Force, substantive participation in Project LINK (an international collaborative research group for econometric modelling, coordinated jointly by the Development Policy Analyses Division of the United Nations Secretariat, and the University of Toronto) and regular exchange of information on the global and regional economic and social surveys. The commissions also provided regional perspectives on globalization in a background document for the high-level dialogue on globalization and interdependence at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Examples of this cooperation are indicated below.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

56. During 2001, ECE worked with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to create the European regional network of the United Nations Online Network of Regional Institutions for Capacity-building in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN). The resulting electronic network has been published both on the UNPAN web site (maintained by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat) and on the ECE web site. The European regional network provides an easily accessible guide to training and capacity-building in almost all the ECE European member States, and the agencies that feature on the database are also building contacts with each other to exchange experience and to meet the challenges of new technologies in public administration.

57. ECE also cooperates with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat through its participation in the United Nations high-level task force on ICT for Development. ECE participated in an ICT Task Force meeting in New York in February 2002 and agreed to organize a European regional expert meeting and to develop a European regional network on ICT for development and transition. ECE hosted a meeting in April 2002 to launch the European regional network to help ensure that the United Nations ICT for development process makes a dynamic contribution to the regional preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (2003).

58. In the area of sustainable development, senior staff of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and ECE met in March 2002 in New York for an informal reflection on the expected outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the role that ECE could play in its regional follow-up.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

59. Cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has essentially involved the preparation and approval of the project "Capacity-building of ESCAP member States for managing globalization" under the third tranche of the Development Account. The project targets trade and investment and macroeconomic policies in Central Asian and Caucasian economies in transition, Mongolia and the Russian Federation and will be implemented during the period 2002-2004.

60. In December 2001, ESCAP and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and the Division for the Advancement of Women, both of the United Nations Secretariat, convened the "Asian and Pacific Regional Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming" at which participants exchanged ideas, experiences and good practices on gender mainstreaming, and stronger links between the gender mainstreaming work of the United Nations and efforts at national and regional levels were established. In June 2001, ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat organized a training workshop, funded from the Development Account, to promote the inclusion of

women with disabilities into mainstream gender initiatives in the region.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

61. ECLAC and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continued to work together in the field of statistics, particularly in the areas of national accounts, economic and statistical classifications for foreign trade and environmental statistics. Both institutions jointly organized a Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Indicators (Santiago, November 2001).

62. As part of its activities as manager of the Task Force on Tools and Indicators for Gender Impact Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equity, ECLAC also continued collaborating closely with the United Nations Statistics Division and the Division for the Advancement of Women, both of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

63. In the area of monitoring of the economic and social situation of the region, ECLAC and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat teams in charge of the flagships on the economic and social situation of the region and the world, respectively, continued to maintain regular contact and exchanges of information.

64. Finally, the ECLAC Population Division/Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) provides the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat with figures and projections for the Latin American countries for inclusion in its publications.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

65. ECA continued its collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the implementation of the public service ethics project, which is aimed at compiling information on current legislation, policies, programmes and practices to assist African Governments and non-governmental organizations in improving public sector ethics policies and programmes. This collaborative effort culminated in the preparation of a major report on public sector ethics which was discussed at the Third Biennial Pan-African Conference of Ministers Responsible for Civil Service Matters, held in Windhoek, Namibia, in February 2001 (see A/56/63-E/2001/21). ECA also intensified its cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing activities under UNPAN aimed at strengthening networking among regional institutions working in the areas of public administration and finance, as well as in the implementation and monitoring of the enforcement of the Charter for the Public Service in Africa (A/56/63-E/2001/21, annex II).

66. In January 2002, ECA, working in close collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the ICT Task Force, launched the African Stakeholders Network (ASN) as a framework for partnership and information exchange among various institutions and entities working in the area of ICT for development in Africa. At the national level, the ASN is designed to help build capacity on issues relating to ICT for development among various stakeholders — policy makers, civil society groups and the private sector — by providing specific, policy-relevant and programme support to overcome some of Africa's development challenges. It will also help to identify existing policy gaps in and constraints on the work of the ICT Task Force in Africa. ECA serves as the secretariat of the Network.

67. ECA also carried out several joint activities with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in the area of capacity-building for statistical development. These joint activities took the form of participation in, and contribution to, the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York in March 2001; the meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts, held in Washington, D.C., in April 2001, and New York in July 2001; and the third meeting of the Johns Hopkins Consultative Group on the Development of a Handbook for Non-profit Institutions on the 1993 System of National Accounts, held in New York in July 2001.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

68. Facilitating social integration was one of the principal areas of cooperation between ESCWA and the

Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The integration of youth was the main issue of the Arab Youth Forum, jointly held by ESCWA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (Beirut, June 2001), at which ESCWA was instrumental in formulating the Arab Declaration of Youth, which contains guidelines for the implementation of United Nations mandates on youth, and which was presented to the World Youth Forum (Senegal, 6-10 August 2001) (see A/C.3/56/2).

69. ESCWA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat are further engaged in promoting social integration in the areas of disability and community development. ESCWA is executing a pilot project funded by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on self-reliance and income-generating activities for disabled persons in Lebanon to improve their employment opportunities, based on the international strategy of community-based rehabilitation. The project also includes a series of workshops for the disabled organized by ESCWA, including training of a group of disabled youth in information technology. ESCWA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat are also undertaking a joint project on inclusive cities, which is a theme that has evolved over the past few years whereby ESCWA is providing assistance in ensuring that the development of cities gives priority to community and that individuals, including people with special needs, become the direct beneficiaries of urban development.

(b) Cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

70. Cooperation between UNCTAD and the regional commissions, in principle, seeks a leveraging of the comparative advantages of the two parties to achieve more synergy. Notable examples of applications of this principle during the period under review were cooperation between them in organizing the regional preparatory meetings for the International Conference on Financing for Development in all regions, as well as for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Africa and Asia.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

71. In the area of trade facilitation, there is a good division of labour between the two organizations based on the role of ECE as a standard-setting organization and that of UNCTAD as an organization focused on implementation and technical assistance. This cooperation is manifested in several areas. In particular, cooperation focused on publications, in the form of mutual inputs, joint production and dissemination. In addition, an ECE Trade Facilitation project, which aims at capacity-building in trade facilitation in selected Eastern European countries, is carried out in close cooperation with the UNCTAD Trade Point Programme.

72. ECE also provided UNCTAD with assessments of recent economic developments in the transition economies and commented on the drafts of UNCTAD in this field. In addition, as part of the regular cooperation between the two organizations, ECE provided macroeconomic statistics pertaining to the transition economies to the UNCTAD Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, which produces the *Trade and Development Report*. Continuing coordination is ensured by an Intersecretariat Task Force on cooperation between ECE, UNCTAD and ITC in the field of Trade Facilitation, which meets about four times a year in order to coordinate trade facilitation activities among UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) and ECE.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

73. ESCAP is collaborating with UNCTAD and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in implementing the Islamic Development Bank-funded project on development of multimodal transport operations in the ECO subregion. The project aims to assist ECO member States in upgrading multimodal transport capabilities and identifying bottlenecks with respect to the smooth flow of transport, thereby fostering increased trade.

74. One of the major constraints on the development of multimodal transport in the ESCAP region encompasses inadequate skills and expertise in operational, management and marketing of multimodal transport and logistics services. To help alleviate such constraints, ESCAP is developing an interactive

training package consisting of a study guide, and a reader's and an instructor's manual, with the base material coming from UNCTAD. In addition to this, ESCAP is using the Multimodal Transport Handbook prepared by UNCTAD to develop the substantive training materials.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

75. ECLAC and UNCTAD have continued their long-standing collaboration, mainly in the areas of investment and trade. In January 2002, they jointly organized the Regional Seminar on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policies in Latin America, to examine new policy options including the relationship between FDI, exports and international competitiveness and the successful experience of developing countries in Asia in improving international competitiveness, with or without FDI.

76. E-commerce is another area in which cooperation is expected to increase, as the result of a first collaboration which took the form of the presentation by ECLAC of the paper entitled "E-commerce and export promotion policies for small- and medium-sized enterprises: East Asian and Latin American experiences" (LC/L.1619-P/I) at an UNCTAD seminar on "Improving the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries: role of finance, including e-finance, to enhance enterprise development" (Geneva, October 2001). In addition, both institutions have actively participated in each other's expert meetings on competition policy, financing for development and sustainable development.

77. Recently both institutions reviewed the ways to address the capacity-building needs of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in light of the results of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001, through collaborative programming for 2002-2003.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

78. ECA has a long-standing relationship with UNCTAD in a number of areas, particularly in providing technical assistance to African countries to enable their effective integration into the global trading system, and in supporting their efforts at mobilizing resources for development. Ongoing cooperation covered joint activities in providing technical assistance to African countries in capacity-building for the computerization of customs procedures, to facilitate the transition from a manual system to the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and the Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS).

79. UNCTAD participated in the high-level meeting of African trade negotiators organized by ECA in Addis Ababa in June 2002, preparatory to the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Doha in November 2001. The recommendations adopted by that meeting also served as inputs into the meeting of African Ministers of Trade held in Abuja in October 2001.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

80. Cooperation between ESCWA and UNCTAD revolved around three main areas: World Trade Organization issues; FDI, and competition and consumer protection; and trade and environment. With respect to World Trade Organization issues, ESCWA and UNCTAD cooperated in undertaking a series of activities. The first consisted of a preparatory meeting for Arab countries (Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland, 20 and 21 June 2001). The second was a high-level Arab Expert Group Meeting (Doha, Qatar, 22 and 23 September 2001). The third was a ministerial meeting, jointly organized by ESCWA, UNCTAD and the League of Arab States (Beirut, Lebanon, 29 and 30 October 2001), to provide member States with a forum for consultation and for the formulation of consolidated positions. The fourth type of activity included the preparation, by ESCWA, of about 20 booklets in Arabic spanning three World Trade Organization-related areas: a historical background on the evolution of the multilateral trading system; principal trade agreements in various sectors; and areas of future concern. The booklets in Arabic were especially significant, owing to the dearth of materials on World Trade Organization issues in Arabic. The issuance of these booklets and the establishing of a home page on World Trade Organization issues also contributed to raising the awareness of Arab States with respect to the present and future impact of global changes on these States.

81. ESCWA cooperated with UNCTAD in building the capacity of member States in the area of agriculture

and the new trade agenda in order to make it possible for the countries of the region to benefit from opportunities offered by the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations Agreement on Agriculture.[3] In this respect, ESCWA conducted the first workshop in the region on the issue (July 2001). Cooperation with UNCTAD also involved launching an extensive joint activity on the promotion of FDI in the region through a project on networking of expertise on FDI in ESCWA member States. Other activities with UNCTAD included a joint regional expert group meeting on competition laws and competition policies in the ESCWA region, an ongoing area of cooperation.

3. Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme

82. Although no initiative was undertaken to operationalize the provisions of the UNDP/resident coordinator Strategic Compact during the period under review, there have been several instances of cooperation between the individual commissions and the respective regional bureaux of the Programme. The level of cooperation has varied considerably from region to region, with most regions witnessing significant scaling down. In the case where specific initiatives have been noted for forging significant working relationships between the commissions and their respective regional bureaux of UNDP, those have centred around specific themes, for example, poverty as in the case of ESCAP, financing for sustainable development as in the case of ECLAC and a regional development strategy, namely, NEPAD, as in the case of ECA.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

83. UNDP is funding an ECE-executed project on Human Development Statistics and Social Trends Reporting in Eastern and Central Europe and CIS. Activities carried out in 2001 in the context of the project included the organization of a workshop on Social Monitoring and Human Development Reporting as well as the establishment of a pilot version of a regional web site on gender statistics. The aim of the web site is to provide links between statistics and gender policies. The pilot version is expected to be operational by the end of 2002.

84. UNDP cooperated with ECE regarding the Regional Assessment Report prepared for the ECE Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see E/CN.17/2000/PC.2/5/Add.1), held in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. UNDP has also been consistently helpful in all countries where ECE undertakes Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs). ECE also works closely with UNDP on a project to assist countries in Central and Eastern Europe as well as the CIS countries in improving the statistics relevant for human development resources reporting.

85. ECE and UNDP are jointly working to create the European Regional Network for Information and Communication Technology for Development as a tool to assist the transition countries, and held an expert meeting in Geneva on 29 April 2002. Together, ECE and UNDP will define a two-year programme to implement the initiatives of the ICT Task Force in the region and to assist the participation of the less advantaged transition economies in the World Summit on the Information Society (2003 and 2005).

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

86. Despite dwindling resources, ESCAP and UNDP/Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) have successfully pursued a course to generate a momentum for cooperation. Their initiative is based on recognition of the need to effect implementation of the Strategic Compact and the millennium development goals. Three specific activities could be cited as follows:

(a) They established a joint ESCAP/UNDP Poverty Centre to assist the countries in the region in formulating and implementing effective poverty reduction strategies towards achievement of the millennium development goals. Under a project entitled "Supporting the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals", specific objectives focus on the provision of a region-wide analysis and monitoring of the progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving the millennium development goals; and assessing the links between microlevel poverty alleviation activities and their influence at the macrolevel;

(b) UNDP financed a project entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of ESCAP" from the Republic of Korea Trust Fund with UNDP;

(c) UNDP Viet Nam has engaged ESCAP as executing agency of a Support Services for Policy and Programme Development (SPPD)-financed country project whereby ESCAP would provide policy advice in focus areas within the country cooperation framework for Viet Nam (2001-2005).

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

87. ECLAC continues to collaborate with the UNDP, both at the regional and at the country level. One of the joint ECLAC/UNDP efforts is a regional project to assess the feasibility of halving the poverty levels in the region by the year 2015, as established in the millennium development goals. In addition to this, both institutions worked together in the area of financing for development, particularly financing for sustainable development, offering countries in the region a converging approach to the two United Nations international conferences held this year. Two joint projects were implemented in the area of sustainable development: Financing for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Application of Economic Instruments for Environmental Management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

88. ECLAC has provided substantive inputs in the preparation of the Human Development Report of several countries in the region (Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti). In addition, ECLAC hosted and made substantive inputs to the UNDP Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean on Trade and Human Sustainable Development (Santiago, 29 and 30 October 2001).

89. At the national level, ECLAC is the executive agency for two projects, one dealing with capacity-building in the Ministry of Agriculture and the other with violence in a society in transition from war to peace. ECLAC has also given significant support to two UNDP projects in Cuba: Rational Use of Energy, and Support to the Productive Sector. In Mexico, ECLAC is executing a UNDP-funded project on Updating and Consolidating the Mexican Strategy for Development Cooperation, particularly regarding Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in Mexico in the Twenty-first Century.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

90. The collaboration between ECA and UNDP continued on several issues during the past year. These included UNDP participation in the regional coordination meeting of United Nations agencies working in Africa, organized by ECA in October 2001; the financial support of UNDP for the third ECA African Development Forum (ADF III) on the theme "Defining Priorities for Regional Integration", held in March 2002; and joint planning and undertaking of regional and national activities and programmes. At the country level, ECA continues to work closely with UNDP in providing assistance to African member States in the development and implementation of their National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) policies and plans.

91. During the period under review, ECA and UNDP initiated consultations on developing a framework for enhanced collaboration in a number of areas, which resulted in the signing of a draft framework agreement. The framework agreement is a follow-up to the Strategic Compact between UNDP and the regional commissions signed in 2000. The framework agreement aims at leveraging the comparative advantages of both organizations to achieve higher levels of synergy in support of Africa's development priorities as identified in NEPAD. The priorities include support for democratic governance, including conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction; support for good economic and corporate governance; poverty reduction; strengthening regional cooperation and integration; harnessing information and communication technologies for development; addressing the challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic; promoting gender equality in development; and promoting better stewardship of the environment.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

92. ESCWA and UNDP are cooperating in undertaking a number of projects, mainly in the area of social development. A project on Training and Rehabilitation in Community Development in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and Kuwait is financed by UNDP together with other regional organizations and implemented by ESCWA. The objective of the project, which started in 2000 for a period of three years, is to increase the impact of the

parties that are active in the community development field by strengthening their organizational and technical capabilities.

93. The flagship project on Integrated Regional Follow-up by the Arab States to the United Nations Global Conferences financed by UNDP and implemented by ESCWA over a period of three years ended in 2001. Under this project, a number of activities were carried out in the past year including a Regional Meeting of National Coordination Committees to follow up on Global Conferences (Amman, September 2001), round-table discussions, and a Meeting on Governance, Socio-economic Development and Poverty (Cairo, November 2001). Both organizations also initiated in 2001 a project to improve the quality of the National Human Development Report in Iraq, which will be used for recommending policies and strategies to the Government.

II. Interregional cooperation

A. Interregional cooperation for sustainable development: regional challenges ahead

94. The past decade began with major changes in the international agenda. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Rio Conference, was the first in a cycle of world conferences held to address the multidimensional problems of development in the light of a new phenomenon that was beginning to spread inexorably: globalization. Rio marked the transition towards a new generation of world environmental conventions and, by the formulation of Agenda 21,[4] towards a comprehensive programme of action to guide the endeavours of the world for sustainable development. Nevertheless, although the consensus achieved in 1992 gave rise to greater awareness of the environmental dimension of development and to many global, regional and national initiatives, the implementation of Agenda 21 itself made only modest progress in practical terms. As a result, the problems of environmental stress, resource degradation, social malaise and poverty remain practically undiminished. In fact, many developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries as well as the transition economies, have witnessed an aggravation of those problems, often rendered more complex by demographic and urbanization challenges. The acceleration of economic globalization has added both to the urgency and to the complexity in respect of meeting these challenges.

95. Nowhere are the shortfalls more pronounced than in the trends in sustainable development finance, when compared with the targets set forth in the Rio Summit in 1992. However, some progress has been achieved at the national level in terms of institutional development and modest but concrete national financing mechanisms to support environmental policies and actions. Unfortunately, the fact that the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development are still viewed in many sectors as a constraint on economic growth and competitiveness needs to be carefully addressed.

96. Experience gained since the Rio Conference points to the need for a more holistic approach towards sustainable development. Consequently, a refinement of strategies and sharper policy perspectives aimed at effective implementation of Agenda 21 especially at the national level, complemented by stronger and effective international mechanisms in terms of global and regional support as well as significantly greater financial commitments, are essential. The need for such a fundamental reorientation, encompassing the three main pillars of sustainable development, was highlighted with especial clarity in the regional meetings preparatory to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see E/2002/15/Add.1, containing additional details on the regional preparatory meetings for the Summit, organized by the regional commissions). They also identified the key issues, challenges and priorities at the regional level for sustainable development in the period ahead, as described directly below.

1. Poverty eradication and economic and social issues

97. The single most important and unanimous conclusion emanating from the regional processes was that poverty eradication and economic and social development are both central and fundamental to making any tangible progress towards sustainable development. Chronic and persistent poverty in the developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries as well as the transition economies, endangers the social fabric, undermines

economic development and the environment, and threatens stability.

98. The acute nature of the poverty trap becomes evident from the data indicating that, in 1986, about 200 million Africans lived in extreme poverty on less than one dollar a day. By 2000, 100 million more had joined them. ECA estimates that, even if the rest of the world is successful in fulfilling the target of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, reducing the figure from 22 to 11 per cent, the figure for Africa will be stuck at about 37 per cent — more than three times the global average.[5] On average, 44 per cent of the population in the least developed countries have a per capita income of under one dollar a day, and about 75 per cent have a per capita income of less than two dollars a day.[6] Although gross domestic product (GDP) per capita between 1975 and 2000 quadrupled in East Asia, nearly trebled in South-East Asia and doubled in South Asia, the proportion of the population subsisting on less than one dollar a day remained very high, at over 40 per cent in South Asia, and high, at 15 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific.[7] Poverty became worse with the addition of the so-called transition poor emerging from the Asian financial crisis.[8] In Latin America, a succession of "stop-go cycles" or the economic volatility experienced over the past decade has resulted in a long-term growth rate that is far lower than what the region needs in order to reduce its high level of unemployment and improve the substandard living conditions of a large segment of its population.[9] Between 1987 and 1998, the number of poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean rose by about 20 per cent. In Europe and Central Asia, their number soared from 1.1 million to 24 million over the same period.[10] In the Middle East and North Africa, even if the proportion of people in absolute poverty was 0.5 per cent in 1998, poverty estimates are much higher by the relative poverty criterion.[11]

99. The poverty challenge can be addressed only in conjunction with several other highly important and interconnected issues. Among them are: the impact of globalization; sustainable energy development; sustainable agriculture for food security; human settlements development; major public-health concerns; market access for developing countries' products; sustainable consumption and production patterns; human development and coping with natural disasters; and resource flows and the solution to debt overhang. Assisting countries in dealing with these issues poses enormous tasks at the country, regional and global levels.

2. Globalization

100. With the advent of globalization, growth became more volatile during the 1990s, imposing additional costs in terms of reconciling growth and social development on the one hand, and sustainability of development on the other. The Mexican crisis of 1994-1995, and the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998, as well as the current economic downturn in most major industrialized countries, have revealed more subtle types of vulnerability and previously underestimated contagion effects. The economic restructuring initiatives undertaken in the aftermath of those crises did not always provide the adequate safety net for the poor, often resulting in increasing the incidence of poverty in the affected countries. To make globalization work for sustainable development, developing countries, including in particular the poorest among them, need to be integrated into the global economy, inter alia, by removing trade distortions, giving market access and encouraging investments and resource flows. UNCTAD analyses emphasize that the binding of duty-free market access and improved rules of origin is a prerequisite of attracting investments to the least developed countries. ECA maintains that Africa's transformation requires good economic policies and effective programmes over a long period of time.[12]

101. The globalization process has not, for the most part, led to employment and wealth creation in the developing countries. In Asia and the Pacific, for example, globalization, while raising awareness of the need for development, has also made developing countries in the region vulnerable to diminishing investments and trade sanctions.[13] Consequently, the GDP per capita gap between the rich and poor countries has further increased. The average income in the richest 20 countries is 37 times the average in the poorest 20 — a gap that has doubled in the past 40 years.[14] In addition, income inequality has risen in many developing countries. Therefore, development strategies and aid policies must focus on equity in addition to the reduction of absolute poverty.

102. In Latin America and the Caribbean, volatile capital flows have brought major instability to economic growth, creating important challenges on the macroeconomic front. Its export sectors and the flows

of FDI have not been sufficient to improve the region's structure of comparative advantages in ways that would enable it to move forward in changing its production patterns based on the generation of technical progress, the use of clean technologies and better environmental practices or to achieve greater social equity.[15] Indeed, the urgency of introducing the use of clean technology and sustainable environmental practices is universal for all developing regions.

103. The nexus between poverty, environment and development has become mired in the complex uncertainties of the globalization process. Among the positive experiences, the Asian Development Bank undertook a major study of a group of seven countries, which showed that successful poverty alleviation programmes have a positive impact on the sustainability of development (Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2000).

3. Natural resources issues

104. The regional reviews highlight regional priorities with regard to critical environmental and natural resources issues including: land and biodiversity, oceans and coastal resources, freshwater resources, energy and mineral resources, atmosphere and climate change and small island vulnerability. Often, there is a strong and vicious interaction between environmental degradation and poverty. The consequences of environmental degradation are also the heaviest for the poor, partly because they depend directly on the natural environment for their livelihood.

105. Biodiversity has been under serious threat owing to habitat alterations for cultivation, commercial logging, direct harvesting for export, pollution and global warming. Tropical forests are disappearing at a rate of almost 1 per cent per annum and crop genetic diversity is vanishing from fields at the rate of about 2 per cent each year.[16] A range of economic and social pressures have been exacerbating these problems. Land-use patterns and deforestation have resulted in, among other things, soil erosion in many countries, threatening the sustainability of their development. A freshwater crisis looms larger than ever in many regions with population growth and changed living conditions. While its consumption is almost twice that of its annual replenishment,[17] there is considerable wastage. In Africa, even though the projections suggest that, by 2025, some 20 countries will experience water scarcity, the continent now utilizes only about 4 per cent of the freshwater resources of its rivers and lakes.[18] In Asia, taking 1990 as the baseline, a regional projection of freshwater needs indicate that, by 2025, water requirements for crop production might increase by up to 100 per cent together with an expansion of irrigated lands by about 30 per cent; industrial water demand might increase sevenfold; water pollution in urban areas might increase 10 times; and the intensity of floods might increase owing to poor watershed condition, reduced natural drainage and climate variability.[19] Case studies undertaken by ESCWA indicate that both water depletion and water pollution are widespread among its member States.[20] The Latin America and the Caribbean region is now devoting almost half of its natural ecosystems to agriculture and stock-raising.[21]

106. Hazardous and toxic wastes discharge, land-based sources of pollution, destruction of the coastal environment and mangroves, offshore mineral exploration and exploitation, oil spills, excessive coastal tourism and overfishing have been some of the main causes of marine environmental degradation. In addition, on land, both man-made and natural contamination of soil and groundwater resources have become increasingly important among the regional concerns. Most developing countries are in need of support and assistance in the field of environmentally sound management of chemical products and other types of waste. Further, recently, there has been a growing awareness of the need to address the issue of naturally occurring contamination of groundwater (in particular, by arsenic), so as to avoid another large-scale public-health crisis such as the one already affecting millions of people in Bangladesh, China and India. Many other developing countries in Asia and in other continents are potentially at risk if no preventive action is taken. Environmental damage and growing strain on ecological balance have exposed many countries in different regions to a growing number of natural disasters and to potentially destructive natural phenomena — meteorological, seismic and volcanological, among others. Energy plays a critical role in making development possible, and its demand is growing faster than ever. Between 1970 and 1990, about 800 million additional people were reached by rural electricity programmes. Despite the enormous efforts to improve energy services delivered to rural people in the past 20-30 years, the number of people without access to electricity has remained about the same — 2 billion.[22]

4. Cross-cutting issues

107. The regional preparatory meetings stressed the urgent need for addressing a number of cross-cutting issues in order to make progress towards sustainable development. Significant among them are: institutional reform and governance; capacity-building; enabling informed decision-making; transfer of environmentally sound technology at affordable prices; promoting participation of and partnership with major groups; and ensuring gender equality and gender justice. Likewise, growth in urbanization and migration in the regions is posing serious challenges, which are reflected in growing poverty, inadequate shelter, deterioration in quality of education and health services, and rising unemployment. To create job opportunities, especially for the migrating population and the urban poor, diversified trade and investment opportunities are more essential than ever before.

108. The issue of sustainable development at the interregional level may involve natural eco-regional systems (for example, international river basins, shared water bodies, regional seas etc.) in relation to transboundary movement of environmental hazards. In certain instances, interregional collaboration is necessary for management (for example, regional climate studies); in other instances it is needed for cost-effectiveness (to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort).

5. Common but differentiated responsibilities

109. Agenda 21 cannot be successfully implemented unless the global commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development are fulfilled and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities"[23] is followed in its letter and spirit. It means that industrialized countries have accepted greater commitments than the developing ones under the multilateral environmental agreements and it aims to ensure that costs are distributed in accordance with the financial and technical capabilities. Equitable trade and investment regimes, based on respect for comparative advantage, effective and just application of intellectual property rights and technology transfer on favourable terms, particularly in relation to tropical agriculture and medicine, should accompany this. The last-mentioned is particularly important for Africa in view of the severe public-health crisis there. In emphasizing the need to eliminate trade barriers faced by the developing countries, the regional meetings especially highlighted the need to improve market access in areas in which developing countries have comparative advantage, for example, agriculture and textiles.

6. Trade and environmental regulations

110. There is no evidence indicating that environmental regulation is limiting FDI, or that transnational corporations are less environmentally responsible than domestic firms. On the other hand, to the extent that developing countries seek better and greater participation in international trade, it is expected that there will be greater investment in services, technologies and environmental management systems and better environmental policies setting clear rules for the private sector. Increasingly, developing countries will need to change their production practices and environmental standards to bring them up to the demands of international markets.

111. The emergence of "environment-sensitive markets" with higher demands for quality and the management of products and processes, and the consequent need for adjustments to the environmental requirements of their main export markets are becoming an additional pressure on the economies of the developing countries. The way this adjustment will be achieved depends to a large extent on the type of technological and environmental management that prevails in the developed countries, since they dominate world trade and are the ones laying down the standards that have to be complied with internationally. This is causing growing fears in many developing countries that the environmental dimension may give rise to new "conditionalities" and non-tariff barriers. There is a growing need to give consideration to the relationship between trade and environment in a positive way by complementing the trade liberalization process with the proper environmental policy and capacity-building initiative, rather than avoiding the treatment of these issues in the international forums.

112. Environmental FDI, such as investments in cleaner production technologies, is generally not considered attractive by foreign investors. Furthermore, their preference for resource extractive investments tends to compromise sustainable development goals, even though these investments bring much needed capital to poor countries. In this context, Governments should carefully consider the

fact that FDI undertaken without regard to effective environmental policy regimes can, like any type of investment, result in the creation of pollution problems and other forms of environmental degradation. This is a particular risk in countries experiencing large FDI flows that overwhelm the regulatory capacity of environmental authorities. Indeed, there is no substitute for effective national social and incentive-based environmental policies and regulations. One interesting option is the following: home-country Governments might consider making risk guarantees for FDI conditional on sound environmental management by investors.

113. In cooperation with national authorities, international and regional organizations should support the development of better information on the potential impacts of foreign private flows upon sustainability. International organizations should also continue their efforts to assist national Governments in the development and implementation of "green" accounting methods, which provide essential information on the degree to which public and private investments offset the depletion and degradation of natural resources and enhance human capital. Regional commissions are already promoting programmes in these directions.

7. Development and financing: needs and trends

114. The regional preparatory meetings highlighted the fundamental importance of mobilizing adequate resources for successful implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. They recognized that the main source of development finance should be generated through greater domestic resource mobilization, inter alia, through better domestic policy environment and through innovative forms of financing that involve the private sector. However, developing countries and the economies in transition, including the least developed countries and the small island developing States, will continue to need significant inflow of international financial resources, mainly through investment and official development assistance (ODA), to achieve sustainable development. In addition, improving the effectiveness of ODA is necessary for achieving sustainable development goals.

115. The overall declining trend in ODA, both in quantum and as a percentage of donor countries' gross national product (GNP)[24] has had a severe adverse impact on sustaining the development of the poorest countries across the globe. As a proportion of donor GNP, between 1990 and 1999, on average, ODA declined from 0.34 to 0.24 per cent.[25] In real per capita terms, net ODA to the least developed countries dropped by 45 per cent in the 1990s and is now back to the level that it was at in the early 1970s.[26] Notable in this context is the fact that, on average, total debt stocks of least developed countries in 1998 corresponded to an estimated 101 per cent of their combined GNP, up from 92 per cent in 1990.[27] Between 1990 and 1996, ODA to Africa declined by 24 per cent in real terms.[28] Sustainable development in those countries cannot be achieved with the severe limitations imposed by the reduced resource flows. The outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, hopefully signals a reversal of this trend.

116. In order to facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, it is desirable to differentiate between various stages of development among the developing countries. At one extreme are the middle-income countries which have become largely integrated into the world economy (emerging market economies). At the other extreme are the poorest countries which have become increasingly marginalized. And, somewhere in between are the developing countries which face forces of both integration and marginalization — countries that are prone to bouts of integration and exclusion. All of them still need ODA for different purposes, bearing in mind that poverty and inequality are growing even in the emerging market economies.

117. Recovery from the financial crisis in Asia and other regions represents a new dimension in financing for sustainable development. In various countries, there is a renewed interest in institutional reform, particularly in the financial sector. This highlights the urgent need for new approaches to broader-based policies that address poverty, as well as sustainable resource use and environmental management.[29]

8. Domestic resource mobilization and sustainable development

118. Insofar as the bulk of financial resources for sustainable development should come mainly from domestic sources, the policy framework for mobilizing domestic resources is of particular importance. The main options include efforts at strengthening domestic

financial markets public expenditure reforms, implementing environmental taxes, and effecting political commitments to redirect financial resources through macroeconomic and structural reforms. In designing a policy framework for mobilization of domestic financial resources for sustainable development, the objective should be the integration of environmental finance into mainstream public finance. It is essential to determine specific public environmental expenditures and to create the enabling fiscal mechanisms to reduce environmentally damaging subsidies as well as to apply environmental charges, user fees, and emissions-trading programmes.[30] The challenge is obvious, since there are complex tax design requirements and the mainstream public finance agencies have limited experience in dealing with the introduction of these taxes related to environment. However, evidence compiled by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) suggests that countries may benefit from the increased use of environmental taxes and charges, provided that they are carefully designed. Furthermore, environmental taxes can help to integrate environmental dimensions into traditional fiscal policy. In the case of developing countries, steps have to be taken to strengthen their institutional capacity, the state of which is a major barrier to the use of environmental taxes and charges by them.[31]

119. Institutional changes in some developing countries, such as decentralization and devolution of taxing power to local governments, have created opportunities for subnational governments to access the international capital market without relying on central government guarantees. These instruments can improve cost-effectiveness relative to conventional regulations and can also bring forth positive environmental effects. In addition, there are interesting opportunities for environmental investment mechanisms linked to property taxes, based on the clear complementarity that exists between economic and natural assets. A successful example of the use of this instrument is offered by Colombia. This system serves to finance the environmental activities of autonomous regional development corporations, and has proved in practice to be the most significant and stable source of environmental development financing in that country. The establishment of national environmental funds reflects the emergence of another important instrument. They have been established as repositories of revenues from pollution charges, non-compliance fines, and earmarked State and international grants and allocations and debt-for-nature swaps.

9. Capacity-building and dissemination of best practices

120. High among the common needs identified by all the regions are capacity-building through better education and training and creation of public awareness concerning sustainable development and sustainable management of natural resources. In that context, a key issue is to focus capacity-building towards self-empowerment of local communities and the training of more qualified trainers. Such capacity-building programmes will not only have a multiplier effect but also take full account of appropriate solutions to meet local needs and situations. Future capacity-building efforts can build on existing initiatives, such as Capacity 21 of UNDP as well as programmes undertaken by various other institutions and bodies at the regional and subregional levels including those undertaken by the regional development banks and the regional commissions as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Another issue that has been gaining prominence relates to the proliferation of legal and institutional measures and the increasing number of international environmental conventions and agreements. There is an urgent need to develop capacity to understand and articulate these issues and to secure better compliance with and enforcement of these laws and conventions.

121. Capacity-building initiatives can also draw from the best practices within the regions and in between the regions, and especially from experiences gained in promoting sustainable development at the local level with Government-non-governmental organization-private sector partnerships. Already, many successful examples of cost-effective initiatives have been documented on a variety of issues. Such examples include microcredit for poverty reduction; renewable domestic energy projects; rainwater harvesting; partnership-building in urban settlements; improved farm management techniques; common property resource management; and community-based fisheries management.

10. Conclusion: a regional approach

122. One of the main challenges of the Johannesburg Summit will be to determine how the criteria of economic, environmental and social sustainability can

be made operative in the different spheres of public policy in an integrated manner. It is important to acknowledge that, for effective implementation of the global agreements on sustainable development, there is a need to adopt a differentiated approach, which can best be achieved at the regional level. The road to and from Johannesburg offers a unique opportunity to renew the regions' own agendas for sustainable development, based on each region's unique distinctiveness, while also offering the possibility of refining and consolidating the global agenda through a bottom-up approach. The starting point of the regional "own agendas" are undoubtedly the regional platforms which, with the endorsement of the respective stakeholders at the preparatory phase of the Johannesburg Summit, have already outlined some concrete initiatives for implementation.[12] An important task for the regional processes is to identify the comparative advantages of each region that can contribute to the solution of global environmental problems in an equitable way. At the same time, the regional level can provide an adequate platform for building common positions, exchanging experiences among "peer" countries and undertaking periodic regional reviews of sustainability encompassing economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. This responsibility should also have the objective of advancing cooperation among countries, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, and other relevant regional organizations, including the regional development banks. All of them, in a coherent way, should find innovate ways of coping with the new and different imperatives for global governance of sustainable development and, hence, for international cooperation.

B. Cooperation among the regional commissions in given areas

1. Transport and transport facilitation

123. Globalization and liberalization are increasingly leading to expansion of intraregional and interregional trade and tourism. However, in all regions of the world, the beneficial participation of developing countries in this process is constrained by inadequate transport infrastructure and services. To help countries in addressing these issues, progress has been made by the individual regional commissions. Examples include the international land transport network in Europe developed under the auspices of ECE agreements (including the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries[13] and the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines[14]). In addition, the ongoing process of developing Asia-Europe, Africa-Europe, intra-Africa and intra-Asia land transport linkages has been making progress.

124. ESCAP is implementing an integrated Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development project, comprising the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and transport facilitation, and is formulating a regional land transport network. ESCWA has identified a regional network under a project entitled "Integrated Transport System of Arab Mashreq". It comprises intraregional road and rail networks, seaports and airports and a formal Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq. Similarly, ECA is promoting a regional network comprising trans-African highways, ports and railways. At the same time, ECLAC has been active in supporting the process of improving port efficiency through commercialization and enhancing international shipping services. Through these regional initiatives, considerable progress has been achieved despite the wide differences in the pace of implementation.

125. The recognition of the potential complementarities, and the need to address interregional transport linkages more effectively, prompted the convening of the first Meeting of the Directors of Divisions responsible for Transport in the Regional Commissions, held in Cairo in December 1999. That Meeting provided the opportunity for the discussion of approaches to enhancing interregional collaboration and the elaboration of a project on land and land-cum-sea transport linkages that would enable the respective member countries to more fully participate in the globalization process. In the second Meeting of the Directors held at Beirut in January 2001, the objective of the joint project "to assist member States in strengthening their national capacities for developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages and to promote interregional cooperation to facilitate interregional trade and tourism" was defined. Activities to be included in the project were also discussed and agreed. Subsequently, the project entitled "Capacity-building in the Development of Interregional Land and Land-cum-Sea Transport Linkages" was approved by the General Assembly in December 2001 with a budget of US$

1.25 million. The implementation of the project over the period 2002-2006 will result in: (a) enabling the countries to identify potential interregional transport linkages and their expected impacts on regional and economic development; (b) further strengthening the capacities of national officials in the developing countries with regard to identification of the physical and non-physical impediments to the movements of goods and passengers both by road and by rail, commercialization/privatization, inland container depot development, land border crossing practices and formalities, seaport operations, electronic data interchange applications and financing of road maintenance; and (c) operationalizing an interregional network of transport linkages.

126. The third Meeting of the Directors responsible for Transport was held from 13 to 15 March 2002 at ESCAP headquarters and focused on project implementation issues and the detailed budget allocation among the regional commissions. Some of the possibilities discussed included increased collaboration between the regional commissions in the implementation of the work programme, through a sharing of resources and experience; and the harmonization of transport statistical information/databases maintained by the regional commissions, with a view to effecting their possible future consolidation at the global level. It was also recognized that, with each of the regions facing similar underlying problems in the transport sector, there was a substantial opportunity for a more meaningful exchange of ideas with respect to forward planning of research and analysis which would create a better understanding of the linkage among mobility, access and development.

2. ECLAC/ESCAP interregional cooperation in trade and investment

127. ECLAC and ESCAP continued to explore the possibility of carrying out a second phase of the joint project on Interregional Cooperation in Trade and Investment whose first phase had been implemented in 2000 with the financial support of UNDP. This second phase would focus on the main conclusion of a joint seminar held in conjunction with UNCTAD at its ninth session in Bangkok, Thailand. The efforts of both regional commissions would be focused on small and medium-sized enterprises in the two regions, preferably using the new means of information technology. The second phase of the project will be initiated upon identification of an additional source of funding.

3. Trade facilitation

128. There is a high level of cooperation among the regional commissions regarding trade in the areas of trade facilitation and standards development, with ECE leading the process. A brief description of the current work in each of these areas is provided below.

129. All regional commissions are assisting ECE in organizing an International Forum on Trade Facilitation, to be held in Geneva, on 29 and 30 May 2002. The Forum will focus on the trade facilitation issues of developed, developing, transition and landlocked economies and will seek to build a new agenda for future work and direction in this area. ECE launched the United Nations Electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) project, which is supported by ESCAP and ESCWA. The aim is to promote and provide tools for the use of trade documents that are aligned to international trade standards in paper and electronic format. Together with ESCWA and ECA, ECE started a project for "Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean region".

130. Supported by ESCAP and ESCWA, ECE launched a common web site called UNeTradeS.Net (http://www.UNeTrades.Net) which provides global trade solutions for the trading community with loadable versions of United Nations codes, information on trade facilitation tools and techniques and technical cooperation projects. The web site is run by ECE with support from ESCAP and ESCWA. Also in cooperation with ESCAP and the European Article Numbering Association (EAN International), ECE promoted the implementation of its commercial agricultural quality standards at the Asian seminar on "Safe and High-quality Food for International Trade", held in April 2002 in New Delhi.[35] The seminar provided recommendations for follow-up workshops and training courses to enhance the ability of Asian countries to trade their agricultural produce internationally.

4. ECE/ECA/ESCWA cooperation in the Mediterranean

131. This joint Mediterranean initiative comprises three thematic areas, namely, in the area of

groundwater and environment, alternative funding mechanisms for renewable energy and energy conservation projects, trade facilitation, and electronic business with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises. A number of Mediterranean countries are facing common environmental problems and development constraints related to water scarcity and resource degradation, and many are becoming increasingly dependent on internationally shared water resources, in particular groundwaters. Substantial experience exists in monitoring, assessment and management of groundwaters at regional level, especially within ECE. Based on this and other experiences, a joint ECA-ECE-ESCWA project proposal is being formulated aiming at developing tools and mechanisms for sustainable utilization, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater resources in the Mediterranean region, with ESCWA as lead organization. Research institutes based in the European Union (EU) have been approached for funding through the MEDA programme of the European Commission, and alternative extrabudgetary funding is also being explored.

132. The second joint project for the Mediterranean is on exchanging regional experiences and best practices in alternative approaches to financing renewable energy and energy conservation projects. ECA, through its Subregional Development Centre for the North Africa region, located in Tangier, has taken the lead in implementing this initiative. The activities are being modified and updated to reflect the new orientations resulting from the World Summit on Sustainable Development process.

133. The third project involves capacity-building to improve facilitation and e-business in the countries in the region. This project, which is funded by the Development Account, aims at improving the competitiveness of companies, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, in non-EU countries, in regional and global markets through simplifying and harmonizing trade procedures throughout the transaction chain. ECE is the lead agency for this project. Preliminary discussions have taken place with institutions, which are currently implementing EU/MEDA projects in order to build synergy, particularly so as to enhance the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises. Cooperation is also initiated with regional chambers of commerce. The first task of the project, which is to identify project member organizations within participating countries, has already started.

5. Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

134. The Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) is a joint undertaking of the Central Asian States, ECE and ESCAP, aimed at having the Central Asian countries act together to address issues of common concern. The programme will support the Central Asian republics in developing their cooperation, creating incentives for economic development and integration in economies of Europe and Asia.

135. Over the last three years, ESCAP and ECE have been working jointly within the framework of SPECA which is aimed at strengthening capacities of the Central Asian countries with a view to developing intraregional cooperation and facilitating integration of Central Asian countries into the world economy.

136. The implementation of SPECA has been steered by the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), which held its third session in Bishkek on 13 and 14 February 2002. In addition to providing guidance to three Project Working Groups, namely, on rational and efficient use of energy and water resources, transport infrastructure and border crossing facilitation, and its involvement in an international economic conference on Tajikistan, RAC has initiated the creation of the Business Cooperation Council for the promotion of international trade and investments directed towards Central Asian countries.

137. Under the auspices of the Project Working Group on Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources, a draft concept of the regional strategy on efficient use of energy and water resources, aimed at optimization of the use of water for both irrigation and hydropower generation, has been formulated and discussed. The proposed draft strategy is based on two diagnostic studies, one on water issues and the other on energy issues, which have been recently finalized for submission to the Governments of Central Asian countries for approval. The ongoing Development Account-funded project on "Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia" has greatly facilitated the work of this Working Group. The Working Group has also institutionalized cooperation with the Tashkent branch of the International Fund for

Saving the Aral Sea through a Memorandum of Understanding to achieve synergy through joint activities.

138. In the field of transport, to complement the work of the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation, ECE and ESCAP collaborated in integrating this element into the project entitled "Capacity-building through cooperation in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages", funded from the Development Account. The Project Working Group has underscored the importance of border crossing issues and the need to establish national committees on transport facilitation and border crossing simplification and to intensify collaboration among SPECA member countries. It considered a draft Memorandum of Understanding among SPECA member countries on the facilitation of international road transport, which would be signed at the ministerial level.

139. The Project Working Group on the International Conference on Tajikistan is involved in the preparatory work for the Conference, tentatively scheduled for October 2002. Several investment proposals for consideration at the Conference have been prepared. Linked thereto, a medium-term strategy for economic development in Central Asia is being revised in the light of the current situation in the subregion.

140. Although SPECA offers an excellent opportunity for Central Asian countries to accelerate their economic and social development through mutually beneficial cooperation, not all five Central Asian economies are actively participating in the programme activities. At the same time, neighbouring countries have shown interest in participating in SPECA. The Government of Azerbaijan has already made a formal demarche to join SPECA with the suggestion that international cooperation be activated for the development of diversified pipeline transportation of hydrocarbon resources to the world market.

6. ECE/ESCAP cooperation in the field of energy

141. ESCAP and ECE have been closely cooperating in the field of energy for sustainable development. This cooperation has mainly focused on (a) promotion of sustainable energy policies in Central Asia; (b) enhancing security of supplies in north-east Asia; and (c) the reassessment of energy/mineral commodities in ESCAP member States. The regional project on the "Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia", funded under the Development Account ($1.75 million), has now reached its halfway mark, with project completion anticipated in 2003. Both regional commissions have shared responsibility for its implementation. During the period under review, ECE and ESCAP have coordinated their energy activities and extrabudgetary resources and jointly published the "Guide for the Promotion of Energy Conservation Regulations in Economies in Transition". ECE has collaborated in the organization of the First ESCAP North-East Asia Expert Group Meeting on Intercountry Cooperation in Electric Power Infrastructure (held in Khabarovsk, Russian Federation, October 2001); and in the ESCAP Training Course on Energy Management (scheduled for Ankara, Turkey, June 2002). In addition, as a follow-up to the joint ESCAP/ECE Seminar on the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources (held in Bangkok, Thailand, October 1998), ESCAP has continued to promote the practical implementation of the Framework Classification, developed under the auspices of ECE, by organizing seminars with ESCAP member States.

7. Statistics

142. The ECE Statistical Division planned and organized an ECE-ESCAP joint workshop on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 13 and 14 December 2001. The workshop was financed by the World Bank, and it was intended for senior managers in the statistical offices of CIS countries and other less statistically advanced countries in the ESCAP region. The workshop was attended by approximately 40 participants, and included representatives of Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine, as well as representatives of various different international organizations. Subject to agreement's being reached with the World Bank, a follow-up workshop will be organized in 2002 for some nine CIS countries that were not able to participate in the above-mentioned workshop.

8. Gender equality

143. Cooperation among the regional commissions is mainly within the framework of the Inter-Agency

Network on Women and Gender Equality on "Gender indicators for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action", coordinated by ECLAC on behalf of the five regional commissions. Since ECLAC received this mandate at the sixth session of the Network (New York, 27 February-2 March 2001) (see ACC/2001/3), collaboration has been specially strong with ECE, and both regional commissions have launched web sites containing updated comparative indicators for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action.[36] ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA have joined this interregional cooperation initiative and one major expected output should be the creation of networks of user-friendly regional web sites that will include complete statistical databases, which would facilitate the follow-up of the situation of women in most countries of the world for international organizations, national Governments and organizations of civil society.

144. ECLAC, on behalf of the regional commissions, has made a significant contribution to the survey mandated by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality aimed at obtaining an inventory of existing resources within the United Nations and identifying the main challenges regarding the use of indicators for the Beijing follow-up.

145. In addition, the inter-agency project on capacity building of national machineries for governance with a gender perspective in Latin America, designed by ECLAC and to be implemented during 2002-2004 with funds from the Development Account, would suggest collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and ECA, which have implemented a similar project in Africa. Joint activities to exchange experiences are foreseen in the execution of both projects.

III. Further measures undertaken by the Commissions since spring 2001 to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

146. At its session in 2001, the Commission, with a view to strengthening the overall policy coherence and communication in ECE, decided to establish a Steering Group made up of the Executive Secretary, the members of the Commission's Bureau and the chairpersons of the Commission's Principal Subsidiary Bodies. The fact that the Steering Group met for the first time in November 2001 and defined its role as a consultative body should help to consolidate a common approach of all sectoral Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to ensure the continued relevance of ECE in a rapidly changing regional constellation. In this connection, the Group provided guidance on various issues, including the preparation and follow-up to United Nations summits, including the ECE Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development. The Group will meet again in the context of the 2002 annual session.

147. Within the secretariat, a management retreat for ECE programme managers was held in November 2001. Follow-up to that retreat included the establishment of a task force to assess to what extent the policy analysis work of ECE could be further expanded and made more visible, particularly for better addressing the intersectoral/cross-sectoral issues, as well as the establishment of a task force to focus on the simplification of internal procedures with a view to improving working methods.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

148. In summer 2000, and in light of resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997[37] which had called for a review of the conference structure of the Commission including its thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, at its fifty-eighth session (to be held from 16 to 22 May 2002), ESCAP launched a comprehensive revitalization exercise concentrating on the Commission's programme, conference and subsidiary structures. A central aspect of the revitalization exercise concerned the establishment of a programmatic framework that would allow ESCAP to allocate the majority of its financial and human resources to fewer focus areas. The revised programme structure of ESCAP will focus on three themes, namely (a) poverty reduction, (b) managing globalization (which will include a new subprogramme on information and communications technology) and (c) addressing emerging social issues. In implementing the new programme of work, ESCAP will seek to (a) achieve a balance between its normative, analytical and policy-oriented work and its technical cooperation activities; (b) mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources; (c) concentrate on larger,

high-impact projects rather than continue to support the proliferation of small and mini-projects; and (d) ensure, through ongoing formal and informal exchanges with all stakeholders, that the programmes and activities of ESCAP are needs-oriented and member-driven.

149. A proposed conference structure that will serve to provide an optimal framework for the delivery of the proposed programme structure has been developed by the secretariat, in close consultation with ESCAP members and associate members. The proposed conference structure will not only reflect the three overarching themes, but also provide for in-depth discussions of sectoral issues including statistics, environment, transport etc.

150. A considerable effort has been taken and continues to be taken to ensure that the secretariat structure will be able to implement the proposed revised work programme effectively and efficiently. Towards this end, ESCAP has received extensive advice from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations Secretariat (OIOS) as well as a number of management and administrative experts. At the senior management level, new mechanisms to ensure the inter-thematic and inter-divisional exchange of information and cooperation have been put in place. Moreover, the Headquarters-driven "people management" training programme is being undertaken. One major initiative undertaken by the secretariat relates to strengthening the ESCAP system of programme and project planning, monitoring and evaluation, with a view to measuring and eventually significantly enhancing the impact of the Commission's work programme. New monitoring and evaluation guidelines, covering the programme and projects, are being developed and will have been adopted and implemented by the second half of 2002. In parallel, ESCAP staff has been receiving extensive training in project planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

151. The sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to ECLAC resolution 553 (XXVI),[39] which took place in Santiago, Chile, on 30 and 31 August 2000, included in its agenda a review of the progress recorded by ECLAC in modernizing internal management procedures. At the meeting, the secretariat reported on the full incorporation of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) into ECLAC, a measure of particular relevance for its training activities. The establishment of the ECLAC office in Bogota was also mentioned. Attention was also drawn to the incorporation of performance indicators in the Commission's programme of work and to the dissemination activities being carried out by the Commission to project its activities and publications, both in print and in electronic form. A new uniform style had been adopted for the graphic design of the publications and a dynamic line of publications were being produced jointly with commercial publishing houses. With respect to electronic publications, visits to the ECLAC web site had increased exponentially, and the site was being redesigned to reflect the veritable revolution being recorded in the field.

152. Another issue of particular relevance addressed at the meeting was the importance for countries to remain in constant touch with the secretariat to ensure that the region's priorities were duly reflected in the programme of work. In this regard, it was proposed that clear-cut procedures should be established to govern coordination and interaction between the secretariat of the Commission and regional and subregional integration groupings in Latin America and the Caribbean.

153. In addition to the activities reported at the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the secretariat's systematic efforts to improve and enhance the efficient functioning of the Commission are being complemented currently with several ongoing projects such as: (a) negotiation on a tariffs discount with airline carriers; (b) outsourcing of services in the support areas; (c) rationalization of the distribution list of ECLAC documents and publications; and (d) reduction in the costs of telecommunications services.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

154. During the past few years, ECA has implemented a wide-ranging programme to continuously reform itself, sharpen its focus on the key priorities in Africa's development, modernize its modes of operation, and strengthen its delivery capacity. It has progressively rationalized its subprogramme structure by regrouping

related areas of priority. As a consequence, the Commission's subprogrammes, which previously numbered 21, have been reduced to 8.

155. Similarly, the number of ministerial conferences and subsidiary technical committees of the Commission were progressively reduced from 32 to 13, and then to 8, with only one Ministerial Conference retained — the Joint Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning which serves as the principal legislative organ of the Commission. This has resulted in eliminating overlapping organs that deal with related issues, and fewer subsidiary bodies.

156. Its recurrent and non-recurrent publications have been greatly reduced. At the same time, ECA has expanded other types of outputs, notably training seminars, workshops and symposiums, where services were deemed essential for greater impact. Overall, the total number of quantifiable outputs has dropped from 348 in the biennium 1996-1997 to 206 budgeted in the current biennium 2002-2003. Fewer outputs should mean more in-depth coverage of issues, more rigour, and more timely production of publications. Although for systems, processes and policies for achieving enhanced impact, much remains to be done, ECA is, accordingly, currently paying greater attention to the planning and phasing of products, more systematic peer reviews of publications and more rigorous technical editing.

157. ECA also needs to enhance its evaluation function. In particular, impact assessment needs to be significantly strengthened and user feedback fed into new programme developments.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

158. During the past year, ESCWA embarked on a major restructuring exercise which led to the revision of its medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and its programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. (The substantive implications of restructuring are described earlier in the report.)

159. The priority-setting and restructuring exercise of ESCWA has necessitated the adoption of several measures. One is the strengthening of substantive divisions, through redeployment of resources from the support services. Another is the formulation of teams with flexible structures to implement clusters of interrelated activities and ensure multidisciplinary implementation of activities. For the sake of improved effectiveness and efficiency, the number of outputs for the biennium 2002-2003 was reduced, in pursuit of more focused outputs and of quality rather than quantity.

160. The following additional administrative measures were also implemented to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency:

(a) An in-house travel agent will be provided to render travel management services to the United Nations organizations in Lebanon. This will result in the reduction of the administrative workload and of travel costs and streamline official travel-related procedures;

(b) The ESCWA web page has been redesigned and Arabic pages have been introduced so as to ensure wider information dissemination in the region;

(c) ESCWA will enhance Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) training so as to improve the management of substantive divisions and support services and in order to receive accurate and timely cost status reports;

(d) A user-friendly handbook is being planned to serve as a guide for the staff of the Personnel Section. As it will be used as a reference by all staff, this should result in achieving greater efficiency in personnel work and provide greater transparency for staff at large;

(e) The ESCWA library has become part of the United Nations library Consortium and thus has been able to benefit from savings when securing access to databases that are bought through the United Nations Consortium;

(f) The establishment of a multimedia (computer/video-based) self-study centre for staff training in various areas, such as language and information technology, has resulted in flexibility in scheduling and access to training sites in other countries without travel costs being involved.

IV. Report of the Executive Secretaries

161. During the period under review, the Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions held joint

meetings in Geneva from 18 to 20 July 2001, in New York on 21 November 2001, and in Monterrey, Mexico, on 18 March 2002. These were held in conjunction with the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council as well as with the International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparatory process that had preceded it. The Executive Secretaries exchanged views on global development issues that require a coherent view and concerted action at all levels and on the important role the commissions play in bringing the regional dimension to these development issues and problems. In this regard, they noted that meetings of the Executive Secretaries constitute a very effective coordinating mechanism, not only for exchange of information on the perspectives and activities of the commissions, but also for substantive collaboration, particularly in response to specific development themes or in areas of common concern. Beyond the existing cooperation among the commissions, they underscored the necessity of working with their partners in the United Nations system for information-sharing and distribution of tasks. In that context, different components should be assigned to different entities, on the basis of their comparative advantages, so as to ensure the best performance of the tasks put before the Organization and the United Nations system. The Executive Secretaries also discussed these issues at the meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and at the joint meetings they held with the executive heads and senior management of UNCTAD, UNDPT, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In addition, the Executive Secretaries exchanged views on how the work of the intergovernmental bodies of the regional commissions and other regional bodies should be harnessed to give coherence to the activities of the regional commissions and other regional bodies. They also exchanged views on the next phase that had been initiated by the Secretary-General and the programmatic assessments, which the commissions would undertake in that context.

162. In view of the important role given to the regional commissions in the preparatory process for the Monterrey Conference, the subject of financing for development received high priority in the secretariats of the commissions and particularly at the meetings of the Executive Secretaries. The series of preparatory intergovernmental and expert group meetings in the five regions as well as the interregional meeting jointly organized by the commissions and the related discussions at the meetings of the Executive Secretaries brought invaluable regional experience and perspectives to the process and led to a joint position on financing for development. The Executive Secretaries look ahead to engaging the regional commissions more effectively in the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development. The spirit of the Monterrey Consensus (A/CONF.198/11, chap. I, resolution 1, annex) and the mandate given to them therein (para. 64) require the regional commissions, inter alia, to foster policy dialogue among countries at the regional level on macroeconomic, financial, trade and development issues.

163. The Executive Secretaries' view is that progress in achieving some of the objectives of the millennium development goals, such as poverty reduction in developing countries, will require substantial additional resources for development, whether external or domestic. One problem underlined was the negative impact of the existing financial infrastructure in many developing countries on the scope for the development of competitive small and medium-sized enterprises and microenterprises. The underdeveloped state of the banking system and capital markets tends to raise the cost and restrict the availability of credit for such enterprises, which should be the dynamic element in their countries' development. Although credit risk insurance is still at an early stage in most developing countries, public support of these systems with respect to providing credit access for small and medium-sized enterprises has proved useful.

164. With respect to external financing, the Executive Secretaries emphasized the need to enhance the predictable flow of official development assistance (ODA), especially to priority regions or groups of countries, namely, Africa, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, some small island developing countries and low-income countries of CIS. Without substantial additional ODA, these disadvantaged groups of countries will find it very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the millennium development goals. They agreed that debt relief to the most indebted countries, which face an unsustainable debt burden, should also be reconsidered, and should

be granted in the context of improvements in economic management and governance. Similarly, countries with the added burdens of HIV/AIDS would require additional support. Humanitarian needs and the demand for global public goods are growing. Funding for the United Nations Global AIDS and Health Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as other new initiatives, is urgently required and should be additional to regular ODA.

165. The Executive Secretaries fully supported the call by the Monterrey Consensus for further progress in the coordination of assistance. Conflicting donor aid procedures and reporting requirements impose a significant burden on the limited capacities of recipient countries and undermine aid effectiveness. Follow-up to the Monterrey Conference should aim to stimulate the needed political impetus among bilateral and multilateral partners to disburse funds quickly within a coherent framework of assistance. It should also aim to introduce and accelerate reforms in their lending and aid policies and practices, so as to reduce the transaction costs associated with doing business with them.

166. The Executive Secretaries were also of the view that ODA will not have the expected impact unless it is complemented by effective institutions that promote growth as well as address the social dimensions of economic development. International organizations, as well as the regional commissions, can play an important role in promoting capacity-building and a legal and institutional framework. The experience of the 1990s has demonstrated that any such framework needs to address the vital issues of governance, including economic and corporate governance, and that public institutions free of corruption are a necessary condition for effective mobilization and allocation of domestic and international resources. Strong support was also expressed for the call by the Monterrey Consensus for a strengthening of the participation in norm-setting of developing countries and countries with economies in transition (para. 62). The work of the commissions in this area has contributed to capacity-building in some regions and the Executive Secretaries agreed that successful experience in this area should be replicated in other regions, in order to bring greater benefits.

167. Another important aspect of financing for development is the support of policy dialogue and advice at the regional level, which the commissions would provide. Economies at different levels of development face varying macroeconomic challenges and countries should assess their capabilities in terms of their human resources development and efficacy of institutions in formulating and implementing policies prior to taking on tasks for which they may not be fully prepared. Although developing countries cannot opt out of globalization, their participation should proceed at a measured pace and, as mentioned in the Monterrey Consensus, should take into account the social costs of adjustment programmes. Most important, they should ensure that sustainable development, social development and environmental protection are not sacrificed to growth.

168. Trade policy reforms are not merely a matter of reducing or abolishing tariffs. They also have to do with facilitating trade by reducing transaction costs and filling the information gaps concerning markets and their organization, which can be as bad for trade as tariffs. Governments should give equal emphasis to the provision of public goods for promoting trade in the form of advice, market intelligence and quality standards. These are areas in which the commissions are providing assistance to member countries, in close collaboration with other agencies, in respect of facilitating membership in the World Trade Organization. Most least developed countries have not yet acceded to membership in the World Trade Organization, although some have been trying to do so for almost a decade.

169. Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and maximizing its growth impact are an issue of considerable importance to most developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The benefits of FDI can be amplified through spillovers to local firms. Experience indicates that multinational corporations contribute to output and employment by restructuring acquired enterprises, investing in new capacity and/or improving the efficiency of existing operations. At the same time, the experience of many developing countries indicates that such spillovers are not automatic. Therefore, it is essential that FDI policies be consistent with national development strategies. FDI may have some negative effects if it simply displaces domestic competing investment. The Executive Secretaries agreed that experiences with the promotion of linkages with the domestic productive sectors might be a particularly fruitful area for

exchange of information between the regional commissions.

170. In addition to the volatility of short-term capital flows, sharp swings in the volume of private financing for developing countries have been one of the most disturbing features of the international economic system over the past three decades, with severe economic and social costs for developing countries. In the view of the Executive Secretaries, this situation must be addressed by means of a comprehensive approach to international cooperation. This should provide for macroeconomic policies having a more clearly preventive orientation during economic booms, together with more information and better regulation of financial markets, an adequate supply of exceptional financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during times of crisis, a clear delimitation of the scope of the conditionality applied by the Fund, and multilateral mechanisms for dealing with the debt overhang.

171. The key objectives should be to diminish capital volatility at its source and to make room for the adoption of counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies by developing countries. One of the explicit objectives of international cooperation should be to smooth out business cycles in developing countries. The comprehensive nature of this approach also means that its various components should be seen as complementary elements, rather than as alternative ones. Therefore, the creation of multilateral schemes for dealing with debt overhangs should not be seen as a substitute for emergency IMF funding, whose purpose is to resolve problems of liquidity.

172. The abrupt cycles in private external financing underscore the continuing importance of multilateral development banks. These banks play a crucial role in combating poverty and in providing external financing to countries lacking access to private capital markets, especially the poorer and smaller nations. They also perform the vital functions of providing external finance to middle-income countries when capital flows dry up, and serving as catalysts for private resource flows, as technical assistance mechanisms, as policy forums and as suppliers of global public goods, in close cooperation with the United Nations system.

173. The need to look at international financial cooperation as a concerted effort by institutional networks, rather than as the result of the work of a few international agencies, was emphasized. Viewed from this perspective, the situation provides broad scope for action by developing countries in the creation of subregional development banks, reserve funds and mutual support agreements among central banks, as well as the establishment of macroeconomic and regulatory cooperation schemes. The key role to be played by such regional and subregional bodies should be explicitly acknowledged by the international community. The International Monetary Fund of the future should be seen as a network of regional reserve funds rather than as a single global institution, and the creation and consolidation of subregional development banks should be one of the primary tasks of the World Bank and the regional development banks.

174. There have been a number of interesting experiences involving regional and subregional institutions in the developing world and while these experiences are highly specific to each region, they serve as a basis for productive interregional exchanges on best practices. Other interregional and intraregional aspects of financing for development, such as trade facilitation and FDI promotion, should further accelerate cooperation among the regional commissions in these areas.

175. The Executive Secretaries also exchanged views on the programmatic review currently being undertaken by the regional commissions, as part of the Secretary-General's second set of reforms of the Organization for strengthening its support to the United Nations Millennium Declaration principles and priorities. They reviewed the approach to be pursued by their respective secretariats. This would take stock of how far the regional commissions have come in their reform since the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 and would indicate priority areas under which further work needs to be undertaken. They agreed that their respective programmatic assessments would need to consider: (a) how to further align their programme of work with the Millennium Declaration goals and the emerging needs of the member States of their respective regions; (b) how to better define the primary beneficiaries of their respective work and activities so as to improve their outreach to Governments, which are their main intended users, as well as to other relevant beneficiaries such as civil society and the private sector; and (c) how to enhance coordination between the regional commissions and other relevant entities within the United Nations

system. In this connection, the Executive Secretaries of ESCAP and ESCWA briefed the other Executive Secretaries of the recent priority-setting and restructuring exercises of their commissions, which had been endorsed by their respective intergovernmental bodies. While they were designed to promote convergence with the emerging priorities of their regions, they should also strengthen their support to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration goals at the regional level.

176. The Executive Secretaries agreed that the identification of new areas of work need to be guided by three important criteria. First, member States of their respective regions should consider them a necessary response to high-priority issues. Second, they should be based on the commissions' comparative advantages and consolidated areas of expertise. Finally, they should support a common overall vision and agenda by linking research and analysis with normative standard-setting and policy advice; they should help build partnerships focused on dialogue and collaboration among all stakeholders; and they should strengthen the linkage between their operational activities and normative work so as to provide concrete support for the development efforts of their member States. In short, the commissions would consolidate their activities and align them around the high-priority needs of their respective regions, which are interlinked with the achievement of the millennium development goals.

177. The Executive Secretaries also focused their discussions on two other issues that are connected with the improvement of support by the United Nations to the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. These are: (a) the need to build stronger bridges between the United Nations and non-United Nations organizations; and (b) the necessity of creating effective linkages between the regional and global levels. With respect to building stronger connections between the commissions and other bodies in their respective regions, the Executive Secretaries were all in agreement that significant progress had been achieved, although more needed to be done towards strengthening collaboration in support of regional priorities. They noted that some apparent overlap of mandates given to the regional commissions and to other regional bodies might actually benefit member States, as they could provide different perspectives or ways of addressing development issues, for example, poverty reduction and financing for development. Moreover, these may result in public policy debates, which would ultimately align political will with these priority issues. Nonetheless, in the view of the Executive Secretaries, and again given the limited resources available, efforts should be intensified by member States and the secretariats of the regional commissions and other regional organizations alike to ensure that mandated activities would reinforce synergies and lessen duplication of efforts. Intensified collaboration between the organizations at the regional level, based on their comparative advantages and expertise, can provide support to many countries in reaching the millennium development goals. Since legislative mandates emanate from the highest political or equivalent organs in the regions, the secretariats of the various regional organizations, including those of the commissions, are in principle bound to comply with them. However, member States should consider establishing appropriate mechanisms to ensure an effective way to disseminate information to related ministries within the Government on the different mandates given to various organizations, with a view to promoting greater synergy and reducing overlap of mandates.

178. The necessity of creating effective linkages between regional and global levels cannot be overstated. Ensuring coherent linkages between the regional commissions and global bodies is necessary for the intellectual and policy debates at the global level. The commissions serve as channels to the regions for global decisions and they have been quite successful in bringing global concerns to bear on the policy dialogue of the member States at the regional level. Moreover, the commissions have a well-recognized role of serving as forums for articulating regional perspectives on global issues, but it has often been the case that those perspectives were not effectively integrated in the global documents and debates. The Executive Secretaries expressed satisfaction with the participation of one or more Executive Secretaries in the high-level dialogue and the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Council. Nonetheless, in their view, policy dialogue could be further strengthened if the regional perspectives were injected into the reports prepared for the global meetings. This matter is being pursued within the framework of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

179. The Executive Secretaries were also of the view that the regional coordination meetings between the secretariats of the regional commissions and those of the funds and programmes, agencies and entities engaged in regional and intercountry activities, required strengthened commitment on behalf of all concerned for improved collaboration. These meetings had been intended by the Council in annex III of its resolution 1998/46 for the purpose of achieving greater coherence among the activities of the United Nations system at the regional level. Progress has been made at the country and headquarters levels and the regional coordination meetings were intended to give stronger support to this process at the regional level without creating cumbersome and costly bureaucratic layers. The strategy of the United Nations support to the millennium development goals would necessitate a much closer coordination and collaboration between the regional structures of funds, programmes and the specialized agencies and the regional coordination meetings need to be strengthened for this purpose.

Notes

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[3] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolution Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See Millennium Lecture entitled "Fulfilling Africa's promise", by K. Y. Amoako, 17 December 2001, sect. I (http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/page1499.asp).

[6] See *The Least Developed Countries: 2000 Report* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.II.D.21), table 7.

[7] See Asian Development Bank, *Asian Development Outlook, 2001* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2001).

[8] See Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/8), adopted at the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Phnom Penh, 27-29 November 2001.

[9] See *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.G.182), Summary.

[10] See World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2001), table 1.1.

[11] Ibid., p. 24 and figure 1.1.

[12] See ECA, *Transforming Africa's Economies: Overview* (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2001).

[13] See *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.F.8), p. 119.

[14] See *World Development Report* ..., p. 3.

[15] See ECLAC, *Globalization and Development* (LC/G.2157 (SES.29/3)) (Santiago, ECLAC, 2002).

[16] See *Development Dialogue, 1999: 1-2* (*The ETC Century: Erosion, Technological Transformation and Corporate Concentration in the Twenty-first Century* by Pat Roy Mooney) (Uppsala, Sweden, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), p. 9.

[17] Ibid.

[18] Presentation by K. Y. Amoako, ECA, of the regional perspective during the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2001).

[19] ADB, "The Bank's policy on water", working paper (Manila, 1998).

[20] See ESCWA, *Sustainable Development Planning in ESCWA Member States* (E/ESCWA/ENR/2001/9).

[21] ECLAC and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *The Sustainability of Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities* (LC/G.2/45 (CONF.90/3)/1).

[22] UNDP/Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat/World Energy Council, *World Energy Assessment* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.III.B.5), p. 21.

[23] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I, principle 7.

[24] Barring the examples of Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, which fulfilled the target of 0.7 per cent of national GNP or exceeded it.

[25] UNDP, *Human Development Report 2001* and addendum (New York, Oxford University Press, 2001), Human Development Indicators, table 14.

[26] *The Least Developed Countries: 2000 Report* ..., p. 60

and chart 29.

[27] Ibid., overview, p. VII, sect. entitled "The persistent external debt burden".

[28] *Transforming Africa's Economies: Overview* ..., p. 45.

[29] J. A. Ocampo, Statement on financing for sustainable development presented at the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2001).

[30] In this regard, the ECLAC/UNDP Joint Project "Financing for the Environment" began in 2000 analysing public environmental expenditures for seven Latin American and Caribbean countries.

[31] In the ECLAC region, this conclusion is supported by findings of the ECLAC/UNDP Project "Application of Economic Instruments for Environmental Management in Latin America and the Caribbean" (1999-2002).

[32] For details, please see the reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the World Summit on Sustainable Development referred to above. These are also available at the web sites of the various regional commissions.

[33] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1302, No. 21618.

[34] Ibid., vol. 1530, No. 26540.

[35] EAN International is a worldwide body of more than 1.2 million members, companies from 98 countries, that issues "bar codes" for all products traded nationally and internationally.

[36] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[37] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 18* (E/1997/38), chap. IV.

[38] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 17* (E/1996/37), chap. III, sect. F.